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Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6658th meeting

Monday, 14 November 2011, 4.20 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Moraes Cabral	(Portugal)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mr. Fernandes
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Assaf
	Nigeria	Mr. Onemola
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Tatham
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

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The meeting was called to order at 4.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Cuba, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, Spain, Switzerland and the Syrian Arab Republic to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Ioannis Vrailas, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At the outset, Ambassador Baso Sangqu will make a joint statement on behalf of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1540 (2004), 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), and 1373 (2001). Following that joint statement, the Council will hear briefings by the Chairs of those three Committees.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Baso Sangqu.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): On behalf of the Chairs of the three subsidiary bodies of the Security Council established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) dealing with the issue of terrorism, I have the honour to update the Security Council on the continued cooperation among the three Committees and their expert groups, as requested by the Council in its resolutions 1963 (2010), 1977 (2011) and 1989 (2011) and in earlier resolutions.

The three Committees continue to attach great importance to coordination and cooperation between their respective expert groups, namely, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Monitoring Team of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, and the Expert Group of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). The Committees welcome the continued efforts of the expert groups to cooperate on outreach activities and country visits so as to enhance cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations, increase exchanges of information, engage in joint meetings and maintain reciprocal representation.

The Chairs are now providing updates for the comparative table illustrating the mandates and areas of competence of the three committees and their expert groups, which notably reflects the adoption of resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011) on the split of the Al-Qaida and Taliban components of the 1267 sanctions Committee.

In the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), a special meeting was held to commemorate the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001) 10 years ago.

Joint and coordinated outreach activities and country visits are important tools for the three Committees in facilitating the full implementation of their respective mandates. Those tools strengthen dialogue with Member States, help to improve their understanding of the distinct yet complementary mandates of the three Committees, and assist in the implementation of the relevant resolutions.

Cooperation among the expert groups has been maintained and has increased in some areas. Since May, all three expert groups have been represented in more than a dozen workshops and other outreach events, while two of the groups attended additional meetings, such as the recent workshop sponsored by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), held from 27 to 29 September in Astana, Kazakhstan, which focused on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Central Asia. During that workshop, the Expert Group of the 1540 Committee and the CTED experts demonstrated not only the complementary mandates of the CTC and the 1540 Committee with respect to the illicit movement of weapons and related nuclear, chemical and biological materials, but also how coordinated efforts are essential to assisting the Central Asian States in coping with existing illicit trafficking.

Other examples include a meeting held on 6 and 7 July in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, for heads of special services and security agencies, which was jointly attended by the Chairs of the CTC and the 1540 Committee, as well as by the Executive Director of CTED and the Coordinator of the Monitoring Team.

When another United Nations body organizes a regional workshop, the three expert groups often participate, as in the case of the workshops sponsored by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; the subregional workshop on the Security Council resolutions against terrorism and their implementation mechanisms, held in Doha, Qatar, on 17 and 18 May; and the Arab regional workshop on monitoring and securing movement of goods and individuals from terrorist threats, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 6 to 8 June.

The expert groups also participated in the workshop sponsored by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) on the regional implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Eastern Africa, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 27 and 28 July.

An example of jointly attended events hosted by non-United Nations bodies is the periodic meeting of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), in which the three expert groups collaborated in the negotiation of FATF standards in terms of how they relate to the work of the three Committees.

Several of the country visits organized by CTED have included the participation of the 1267 Monitoring Team and have been mutually beneficial in advancing the implementation process. The 1540 Committee's experts are now able, for the first time, to join a country visit organized by CTED, to be held from 21 to 25 November in Myanmar, where an intensive dialogue will be held with the relevant officials. We hope that there will be future occasions on which the 1540 Committee can reciprocate.

The three Committees have welcomed the progress made in applying the common strategy paper of the three expert groups on cooperation with intergovernmental organizations, which each Committee had taken note of last year. The coordinated approach agreed among the expert groups with respect to selected organizations was enriched by the significant contribution of the representative of CTED and the 1267 Monitoring Team at major conferences late in 2010 and during 2011, which brought together a large number of international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance cooperation with the Security Council Committees and among organizations themselves to promote the full implementation of the respective resolutions.

The outcome of those interactions is now being used by the expert groups to refine the modalities for information exchange, within the existing constraints of confidentiality, to enhance and sustain coordination and to further explore the potential of subregional cooperation.

The CTITF continues to provide the three expert groups with a platform for cooperation, not only among themselves but also with more than 30 United Nations system organizations, agencies and programmes concerned with aspects of counter-terrorism.

The CTITF retreat held on 12 and 13 May provided a forum in which to take stock of the progress made in the coordination and implementation of joint activities. The expert groups contribute to the work of several CTITF working groups. The three expert groups actively participate in the relevant CTITF working groups. For example, the 1540 Committee experts collaborated with the Working Group on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction Attacks.

The expert groups also participate in the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism initiative, which is co-chaired by CTED. CTED and the Monitoring Team have also assumed leading roles in some working groups. For example, CTED is co-Chair of the Working Group on Border Management and the 1267 Monitoring Team is co-Chair of the Working Group on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes.

Exchange of information among expert groups is carried out on a regular basis. They have been sharing information on forthcoming meetings and relevant activities. CTED has regularly shared with the other groups its monthly reports to the CTC, including information on its missions that the Executive Director submits to the CTC, while the 1540 experts have begun posting highlights of summary reports on outreach events on the 1540 website. The three expert groups continue to hold joint meetings when needed, both between the heads of each team and between the expert teams, in order to prepare them for country visits and relevant workshops and to exchange information on particular themes or activities in specific regions or countries.

CTC and the 1540 Committee working group on cooperation with international organizations have

reciprocally extended invitations to their meetings when they arrange briefings by visiting officials from the inter-Governmental organizations or when thematic briefings of mutual interest are held. An example of the Monitoring Team's active involvement was the town hall meeting for the three expert groups held on 19 October at CTED premises for a briefing by the coordinator of the Monitoring Team on the spread of the Al-Qaida and Taliban aspects of the 1267 mandate. The three expert groups were included in the special meeting of 28 September on the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001), where an important outcome document was adopted on the basis of the global survey on implementation of that resolution.

Finally, in addition to invitations to the expert groups to attend briefings of NATO or on border control, both CTED and the monitoring teams delivered a joint presentation this month on terrorism prevention and countering incitement to terrorism through the Internet.

In conclusion, terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continue to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. It remains important to maintain close cooperation and effective coordination between the CTC, the 1267 Committee and the 1540 Committee, as well as among the expert groups. In that respect, the three Committees look forward to receiving further guidance from the Security Council on the areas of common interest in order to better coordinate their efforts and facilitate cooperation.

I now wish to speak on behalf of the 1540 Committee. Our main developments since the last joint briefing in May (see S/PV.6536) have been the adoption of our report on compliance with resolution 1540 (2004) through the achievement of the implementation of its requirements, as mandated in resolution 1810 (2008), as well as the adoption of the tenth programme of work, before addressing other recent activities of the Committee.

The 1540 Committee adopted its report on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) on 12 September (S/2011/579), and has submitted it to the Security Council. Notably, the report finds that since 2008, more States have taken more measures to implement almost every obligation or recommendation in the resolution. While those trends parallel those seen in the reports of the 1540 Committee in 2006 and 2008, the 1540 Committee remains aware that much work remains to be done, and that the urgency of the threat remains considerable. Therefore, the Committee has recommended that outreach to promote understanding of the resolution should continue, with a focus on the practical ways and means to help States take further steps to implement the resolution.

On 17 June, the 1540 Committee approved its tenth programme of work for the period until 31 May 2012. The programme of work incorporates the new mandate and tasks for the 1540 Committee found in resolution 1977 (2011). The programme of work includes detailed objectives and tasks for the four working groups of the 1540 Committee, as well as procedures on how the 1540 Committee and the working groups will operate.

Taking note of the adoption of resolution 1977 (2011) in April and the tenth programme of work thereafter, the 1540 Committee has conducted activities focused on implementation, cooperation with international organizations, assistance, and outreach and transparency since the joint briefing in May.

As to implementation, although the 1540 Committee did not receive any new first reports on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) during the past six months, it did receive additional information on implementation of the resolution from Croatia, Peru and Qatar. In September, France submitted a national action plan on the implementation of the resolution. Many other States have provided additional information to the 1540 Committee or its experts during country-specific dialogues and other activities.

In accordance with resolution 1977 (2011), the 1540 Committee increased its efforts to engage in dialogue with States on their implementation of resolution 1540 (2011). Based on a December 2010 invitation from the United States to conduct a country visit and subsequent exchanges, from 12 to 16 September the 1540 Committee visited Washington, D.C., where the Committee and experts met with officials from nine Government departments and several other Government bodies. The Committee and experts were briefed on the current national measures to implement the resolution, measures they intend to take, and their perspective on effective practices. The 1540 Committee will work with the host country on preparing a draft report on the visit. We can also reveal

that since May, the Committee has also received letters of invitation for country visits to Albania, Croatia and Madagascar. The timing and other modalities for these visits remain under discussion.

The 1540 Committee experts have engaged in other country-specific missions, for example to Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico, in cooperation with the Organization of American States, and anticipate that the 1540 Committee will receive more requests for such missions in the future.

With respect to assistance, the 1540 Committee continues to work on collecting and matching State requests for assistance with offers of assistance, and on possible next steps in its assistance efforts. Since the previous briefing, the Committee has received official information on assistance requests from Armenia, Guyana and Mexico and on offers of assistance or the status of assistance programmes from France, Hungary, Mexico, Portugal and the United States. The Committee updated a consolidated list of its formal requests for assistance, which we agreed to share with the Group of Eight Global Partnership working group at a meeting in Paris, France, on 10 October.

The 1540 Committee has information on more assistance requests made informally to it by national authorities or where States have made requests through other channels, such as in statements at meetings of States parties of key non-proliferation treaties or conventions, or submissions to other United Nations bodies. Committee members currently have additional assistance guidelines on match-making activities under consideration that address procedures to conduct match-making for assistance requests and to turn informal requests into formal requests to the 1540 Committee.

With respect to cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations, since the last briefing the 1540 Committee has engaged with many of the international, regional and subregional organizations that could provide assistance to it in the implementation of resolution 1540. The Committee continues to pursue its work with multilateral organizations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

In addition, the Committee received new information on the status of points of contact from the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, along with a joint appointment by the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat and UNODC to a post that may help with the implementation of the resolution in the region.

The Committee agreed to allow experts to assist the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Implementation Support Unit in the development of the BWC implementation guide. The Committee also facilitated the development of potential recommendations on combating proliferation financing with the members of the Financial Action Task Force, and contributed to the development of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia.

Further, 1540 Committee members and experts participated in 1540 Committee-related activities with other international, regional and subregional organizations and entities, such as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Caribbean Community, and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. The Committee has also received a new commitment to its international efforts through a United States-European Union joint statement on resolution 1540 (2004), issued at a 23 October side event on the resolution organized by the Government of Poland on the margins of the First Committee.

With respect to outreach and transparency, the Committee and its group of experts participated in outreach events at the international, regional and subregional levels to facilitate implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) over the past six months. These included a regional workshop in Riyadh; an international export control conference in Singapore; a workshop on promoting the global instruments of non-proliferation and disarmament in New York; the meeting of the heads of special security agencies held in St. Petersburg, Russia; a workshop on nuclear safeguards and verification; a workshop on potential nuclear security partnerships in South-East Asia in Vienna; a counter-illicit trafficking workshop in Tanzania; and an international symposium on biosecurity and biosafety trends and solutions in Milan.

The 1540 Committee continues to develop its media outreach strategy as well. During the country visit to the United States, the representative of the Chair made a press statement and participated in a press conference about the visit. She also spoke at a meeting with civil society organizations that included participants from the media. This was done at the request of the host country.

In order to promote transparency, the Chair briefed a September meeting of the Africa Group on the work of the Committee. Information notes on events have been posted on the Committee website. We have also begun to redesign the Committee website this month, with the support of UNODA and the Department of Public Information.

In conclusion, the Committee is discussing two important tasks in line with resolution 1977 (2011). The Committee intends to present recommendations for the Committee and the Group of Experts in accordance with paragraph 5 (b) of resolution 1977 (2011). The Committee remains engaged in discussions on these recommendations, which will help define the support capabilities available to the Committee with its new 10-year mandate. The Committee also has begun the process of drafting an annual report to review the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in line with the requirements of operative paragraph 9 of resolution 1977 (2011). The completion of these two tasks will be a major focus of the work of the 1540 Committee over the next few months.

Permit me to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

Much success has been achieved in the first 10 years since the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001), which, among other things, established the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) as the custodian of the resolution. We also avail ourselves of the exceptional support provided by the CTC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. South Africa welcomes the commemorative event held on 28 September, which took stock of the first decade of resolution 1373 (2001). The political declaration adopted at that event is forward-looking and seeks to address those areas that remain a challenge to countering the scourge of terrorism globally. The event further served as a useful means of exchange between the Committee and the entire United Nations membership on the work carried out by the Committee.

South Africa welcomes the introduction of sunset clauses in resolution 1989 (2011), adopted in June. South Africa welcomes the recommendations that were proposed by Mr. Emmerson, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism, in particular concerning the provision of concrete evidence as a requirement for the listing of individuals and entities.

South Africa reiterates that any unauthorized access to weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), materiel and facilities by non-State actors, including for terrorist purposes, is a threat to international peace and security. We should all be concerned over the existence of networks dealing in the illicit transfer of WMD-related technology that could be used in the manufacture of such weapons. South Africa is therefore pleased that, in resolution 1977 (2011), not only was the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) extended for a period of 10 years, but the Council also recognized the risk that non-State actors may acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery. In short, we are hopeful that it is a small contribution to the fight against the belief that WMDs are legitimate instruments.

The President: I thank Ambassador Sangqu for his briefings.

I shall now give the floor to Ambassador Peter Wittig, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): In today's briefing, I would like to provide an update on the activities and achievements of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) since my last briefing in May (see S/PV.6536).

In my briefing, I would like to focus on the following three aspects: first, reflecting the current threat of Al-Qaida; secondly, enhancing the implementation of measures; and thirdly, implementing the enhanced mandate of the Ombudsperson. A more detailed version of this statement will be distributed as hard copy today and made accessible on the Committee's website.

In June, the Security Council decided to split the former list related to sanctions under resolution 1267

(1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban by adopting resolution 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011). As of 17 June, the Al-Qaida sanctions list has included only the names of those individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida. At the same time, and in line with resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011), Taliban individuals formerly designated under the 1267 consolidated list were transferred to the sanctions regime established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) — the Taliban sanctions Committee. As the Chairperson of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011), I have communicated my intention to brief this Council in January 2012 for the first time since the establishment of the Committee and thereafter every six months.

Since 17 June, the Committee, supported by the Secretariat and the Monitoring Team, has been committed to implementing step by step the provisions of resolution 1989 (2011. The Committee aims at concluding consultations over new guidelines before the end of this month. The new guidelines will be made available on the Committee's website.

I turn now to the first aspect of the Committee's work that I should like to highlight, namely, reflecting the current threat of Al-Qaida. The Committee Members share the view that the threat posed by Al-Qaida continues to evolve. Therefore, the Committee, with the assistance of the Monitoring Team, will continue to analyse the threat and take necessary decisions to ensure that the evolving nature of the threat is reflected adequately in the list in a timely manner.

The Al-Qaida sanctions list currently has 344 entries, comprised of 253 Al-Qaida individuals and 91 Al-Qaida entities. Since the last Chairman's briefing to the Security Council, the Committee has added the names of eight individuals and four entities. Over the same period, it has amended eight entries based on additional information gathered, and removed 12 individuals and three entities from the list.

The Committee will continue its efforts aimed at keeping the list up to date. The Committee has concluded its first specialized review of reportedly deceased individuals pursuant to resolution 1904 (2009), and will conduct a number of specialized and periodic reviews in line with the provision set out in resolution 1989 (2011).

The Committee relies on the cooperation of Member States for the successful conduct of these reviews. As Chair of the Committee, I would like to thank all Member States for their continued willingness to cooperate constructively in recent reviews. The Committee will make every effort to devise review modalities that will allow for an effective and credible review process, without over-burdening Member States.

Regarding linkages between Al-Qaida and the Taliban, the Committee has received the Monitoring Team's 90-day report pursuant to resolution 1989 (2011). The Committee continues to analyze the report in a comprehensive manner and is drafting a position paper on the recommendations presented by the Monitoring Team, to be transmitted with the Monitoring Team's 90-day report to the Security Council in due course. The Monitoring Team will continue to report periodically on linkages between Al-Qaida and the Taliban. The Committee, recognizing that there are linkages in some cases between Al-Qaida and the Taliban, will continue to consider questions related to those linkages in a comprehensive manner.

The Committee has continued its cooperation with INTERPOL and has approved a new agreement on areas of cooperation beyond the issuance of INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices.

Allow me to turn now to the second aspect of the work of the Committee, namely, enhancing the implementation of measures. The Committee has taken note of information provided by the Monitoring Team in accordance with its mandate regarding cases in some Member States where sanctions have not yet been fully implemented. The Committee will request the Monitoring Team to provide custom-tailored proposals for working together with the States in question on further enhancing the implementation of sanctions measures. The Committee would like to take advantage of today's open briefing and remind all Member States of their obligation to fully implement the sanctions measures stipulated in resolution 1989 (2011).

Coming to the third aspect of our work, namely, fair and clear procedures and implementing the enhanced mandate of the Ombudsperson. At the outset, the Chair would like to highlight the fact that the Committee, with the valuable assistance of the Monitoring Team, has succeeded in making publicly

available narrative summaries of the reasons for all listings on the Committee's website in all the official United Nations languages. That marks an important milestone regarding transparency in the work of the Committee.

With the adoption of resolution 1904 (2009) the Security Council established the Office of the Ombudsperson. As of today, the Ombudsperson has forwarded 18 de-listing requests to the Committee. She has submitted eight comprehensive reports to the Committee. The Committee commends the Ombudsperson for her continued commitment and for her substantive contributions to the work of the Committee.

The Committee has concluded its consideration of six of those comprehensive reports on specific de-listing requests, resulting in the de-listing of four petitioners. In one case the petitioner withdrew his request before a decision of the Committee. That clearly indicates that the Ombudsperson process continues to deliver substantive results. The members of the Committee also take note that the comprehensive reports of the Ombudsperson provide the petitioner with an opportunity to be heard and to present his or her view of the matter. At the same time it is important to note that the Committee has so far provided to the Ombudsperson reasons for all its decisions on de-listing requests submitted through the Office of the Ombudsperson.

Through the adoption of resolution 1989 (2011) the Security Council has further and significantly strengthened the mandate of the Ombudsperson. The Ombudsperson is now mandated to provide to the Committee a recommendation on each de-listing request. Since the adoption of those new procedures in June 2011, two individuals have been de-listed on the basis of the Ombudsperson's recommendation.

Furthermore, resolution 1989 (2011) stipulates that in cases where the Ombudsperson recommends de-listing, the petitioner is removed from the Al-Qaida sanctions list 60 days after the Committee has completed its consideration of the comprehensive report, unless there is consensus in the Committee to retain the listing, or a member of the Committee requests a referral to the Security Council. With that provision the Security Council has substantially raised the bar for members of the Committee who do not share the Ombudsperson's recommendations to de-list, by requiring unanimity to retain the listing. The Chair notes that this new provision has provided a new dynamic of decision-making within the Committee.

Resolution 1989 (2011) introduced the same decision-making process with a reversed consensus requirement when de-listing requests are submitted by designated States. That should similarly facilitate de-listing in cases where an individual no longer meets the listing criteria. So far the Committee has not received a de-listing request pursuant to the new provisions set out in paragraph 27 of resolution 1989 (2011).

The Committee would like to take this opportunity today to encourage all Member States to ensure that those important and substantial improvements are made publicly known. At the same time the Committee underlines that it is essential to continue to ensure that procedures are fair and clear, that the Office of the Ombudsperson is adequately resourced and that its comprehensive reports are translated into all official languages in a timely manner. We are satisfied that work is underway to ensure that that continues to be the case.

Allow me to conclude with some words on the work of the Monitoring Team. The Monitoring Team continues to actively support the Committee in all areas of its work. On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank Coordinator Richard Barrett and the entire team for their dedicated work and commitment. A detailed overview of the activities of the Monitoring Team since the last briefing in May 2011 (see S/PV.6536) will be included in the hard copy of the Chair's briefing and made accessible on the Committee's website.

That concludes my briefing, but allow me to add some comments in my national capacity regarding the work of the three counter-terrorism committees. Regarding the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), Germany remains committed to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors. The 1540 Committee is an important tool in this regard.

In our view, one priority is the provision of assistance, channelled through the Committee. We also attach great importance to the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and resolution 1977 (2011). Therefore Germany stands ready to continue

supporting the Committee's work by facilitating the Working Group on monitoring and implementation. We welcome its constructive and extremely informative country visit to the United States in mid-September. We expect the Committee to make more use of that important new tool.

We are planning to organize a seminar related to resolution 1540 (2004) in Germany in April 2012. The German Foreign Ministry and other competent agencies are jointly preparing an outreach event for international, regional and subregional industry associations, in close cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. We are convinced that business associations can significantly contribute to the implementation by States of obligations under resolution 1540 (2004). We will stay in close touch with the Chair and other members of the 1540 Committee in the course of further preparations.

About the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, recognizing that promoting human rights and countering terrorism are mutually reinforcing, Germany would like to encourage that Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to further enhance activities aimed at promoting human rights while countering terrorism, including through integrated country visits. Germany would like to reiterate its view that the General Assembly and the Counter-Terrorism Task Force, in the framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, should play a leading role in the field of terrorism prevention.

I wish to say a last word on the work of the 1267 and 1989 Committee — the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee. The Al-Qaida sanctions list must reflect the evolving threat of the terrorist network. Germany has a preference for keeping the focus of the list on key activists. As Chair of the 1267 Committee and the 1989 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, Germany attaches great importance to ensuring that the Ombudsperson's current mandate is fully implemented and that the Office of the Ombudsperson will continue to be adequately resourced. Regarding implementation, Germany would like to see the Committee, assisted by the Monitoring Team, take a more proactive role in working with Member States to ensure the full implementation of measures.

The President: I thank Ambassador Wittig for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to Ambassador Puri, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): I have had the honour to chair the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism since the beginning of this year. It has been an extremely eventful year, and today it gives me great pleasure to brief the Security Council on the work of the Committee since the previous briefing in May (S/PV.6536).

Perhaps the most significant event of the year for the Counter-Terrorism Committee was the special meeting held on 28 September to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001). Representatives of Member States, United Nations entities and other international and regional organizations had a comprehensive exchange of views on counter-terrorism during the day-long event, which was held at United Nations Headquarters. The Committee also adopted an outcome document in which it urged

> "all Member States to ensure zero tolerance towards terrorism and take urgent action to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations through the full and effective implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant international instruments relating to terrorism".

The outcome document will be circulated as a document of the Security Council and is also available on the Committee's website. A separate event for members of civil society was also held on the margins of that meeting.

Coinciding with the special meeting, the Committee issued an updated global survey of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) by Member States, prepared by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) at the request of the Security Council on the basis of information available as of 31 May. The survey provides a comprehensive overview, on a regional as well as a thematic basis, of the status of counter-terrorism efforts around the world as they relate to the implementation of the resolution.

The survey evaluates Member States' strengths and vulnerabilities, identifies gaps in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and

recommends future action. It underscores, among other concerns, the fact that Member States continue to struggle to secure porous borders, monitor financial systems, strengthen their judicial systems and prosecute or extradite terrorist suspects. Inadequate funding and training constrain the ability of many States to be as effective as they would wish. The survey expresses concern that terrorists are increasingly turning to the Internet and other new technologies to recruit, incite and raise funds for their activities. Another area of concern is the link between terrorist networks and organized crime.

Despite these challenges, however, States have made significant progress since the adoption of the resolution, which, over the past decade, has strengthened solidarity and dialogue among Member States in their efforts to counter the terrorist threat.

The survey offers several recommendations aimed at strengthening the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). It is essential that Member States address terrorism by means other than law enforcement. Prevention is critical and a condition for the effectiveness of any comprehensive strategy to counter terrorism, as noted in the survey. Effective responses will necessarily include other aspects of legal and social policy. Development, education, social integration, the rule of law and human rights are among the key components of such responses.

The Committee continues to be guided in its work by the relevant resolutions, especially 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010), and continues to play a critical role in promoting and facilitating their implementation. Pursuant to resolution 1963 (2010), CTED is currently preparing a global survey of the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) for submission by 31 December.

The Committee continues to focus on region-specific discussions and on issues identified in the 2011 global survey. It also continues to organize and participate in discussions and workshops on thematic issues. Some of the major issues considered by the Committee during the past six months include facilitating the provision of technical assistance to Member States, and the challenges involved in adopting and implementing counter-terrorism measures relating to legislation and law enforcement, with an emphasis on prevention and emergency response.

With the Council's permission, I would now like to make a brief statement in my national capacity.

It is important that the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) continue to explore ways and means to enhance their synergies in the fight against terrorism. International cooperation and concerted action against terrorists and their sponsors — including the complete dismantling of terrorist safe havens, sanctuaries, training grounds and financial and ideological support structures — are the critical imperatives needed to defeat this scourge.

The outcome document adopted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee at its special meeting on 28 September is a major milestone in providing strategic direction for the work of the Committee to strengthen the capacity of States in their counter-terrorism efforts. The outcome document introduces a new zero-tolerance paradigm in the international community's fight against terrorism and will be helpful in raising the bar in the fight against terrorism to a higher level.

Speaking at the general debate at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, our Prime Minister, Mr. Manmohan Singh, said:

> "The fight against terrorism must be unrelenting. There cannot be selective approaches in dealing with terrorist groups or the infrastructure of terrorism. Terrorism has to be fought across all fronts." (*A/66/PV.22, p. 11*)

Indeed, our entire region, South Asia, has been racked by the activities of the biggest terrorist organizations and entities in the world, be they Al-Qaida, elements of the Taliban, Lashkar-e-Toiba or others. It is our expectation that the splitting of the 1267 sanctions regime in June this year will enable the Afghan Government to have a greater say in confronting the challenges emanating from those constituting a threat to the peace, security and stability of Afghanistan. We are concerned that the functioning of the 1267 Sanctions Committee continues to be subject to political pulls and pressure. This is a scenario that we can ill afford in our fight against terrorism.

The Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) and the 1267 and 1989 Committee, both newly created, are in the process of formulating

guidelines for the conduct of their work. We hope that these will address the deficiencies in the existing guidelines for these Committees. It is critical that all sanctions regimes established by the Council ensure due process in their working procedures and decision-making. The decision-making process should be swift, fair and transparent. The process of listing and de-listing must be guided by the same set of principles: fairness, credibility and transparency.

The 1267 and 1989 Committee and the 1988 Committee must continue to focus on the linkages between Al-Qaida and the Taliban, which pose a serious threat to international peace and security. The Monitoring Team should examine the linkages between Al-Qaida and the Taliban comprehensively and objectively, and submit its reports and recommendations periodically, as mandated by resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011).

India supports the international efforts to prevent non-State actors and terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and their means of delivery. We are conscious of the dangers that the transfers of such WMDs to non-State actors could entail. Given the evolving complex challenges to international peace and security emanating from non-State actors, such risks are greater than ever before.

The international community must join hands to eliminate the risks relating to sensitive materials and technologies falling into the hands of terrorists and non-State actors. The international response to the threat needs to be national as well as multilateral and global. We support the work of the 1540 Committee in accordance with its mandate.

Finally, I apologize for having taken up so much of the Council's time.

The President: I thank Ambassador Puri for his briefing.

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): I should like to begin by thanking Ambassadors Sangqu, Wittig and Puri for their briefings, and I associate myself with the statement to be made later by the deputy head of the delegation of the European Union.

We recently commemorated the tenth anniversary of the 11 September attacks. Even though Osama Bin Laden is dead, terrorism, whether related to Al-Qaida or not, remains a major threat to international peace and security. To counter this continually evolving threat, the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, in keeping with its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, must adapt so as to devise the most appropriate tools to deal with it.

It was in that spirit that the Security Council decided to reform the sanctions regime against Al-Qaida last June. We had several objectives. It had become necessary, more than 10 years after the regime's establishment, for developments in the situation on the ground to be reflected in its architecture. In addition to the fact that the Taliban and Al-Qaida have fundamentally different objectives, the relationship between them had become increasingly strained as the historical leaders of both movements died off. It was thus no longer relevant to deal with them in the same manner. It was also important to ensure that the regime against the Taliban had a more direct impact in terms of incentivizing the quest for a political solution to the situation in Afghanistan.

Lastly, we welcome the fact that this review is in line with the process of ensuring procedural improvements. Resolution 1989 (2011) strengthened the role of the Office of the Ombudsperson regarding the Al-Qaida sanctions regime by ensuring it a decisive role regarding the delisting of individuals and entities. This not only represents an advance in terms of the rights of the individuals and entities on the list, but also enhances the credibility of the sanctions regime. By removing from the list individuals and entities that no longer belong on it, we have transformed the list into a living mechanism that reflects the current status of the threat.

Combating terrorism at the international level also requires the full implementation of Security Council resolutions. For more than 10 years now, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) has been giving in-depth consideration to the resources and needs of each Member State with respect to combating terrorism. That task could not have been carried out without the support that has been provided since 2004 by the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), whose outstanding work, guided by its Director, Mike Smith, I should like to commend.

The review of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) is coming to an end and must now be

followed up on a regular basis. The Committee has at its disposal a number of effective mechanisms for monitoring the process of identifying gaps and achieving improvements in the legislative apparatus of Member States. The promotion of the rule of law and of a judicial approach to combating terrorism are essential in that respect. I would mention here the workshop organized by the CTED, held in Ankara last July, which brought together prosecutors specializing in counter-terrorism.

Finally, in the context of the regionalization of the terrorist threat, closer cooperation between the affected States and more consistent international support should underpin our work. The United Nations has a key role to play in that respect and must continue to do so by taking advantage of its activities at the regional level, as is the case in West Africa with regard to transnational threats and in particular the terrorist threat in the Sahelian region.

Nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical terrorism remains one of the main threats to our security. As emphasized in the report just submitted to the Council by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), progress has been made in addressing those threats. The challenges and activities related to resolution 1540 (2004) have since 2004 largely been mainstreamed within the United Nations, and States have taken numerous measures to implement the resolution. However, a great deal remains to be done, and we welcome the fact that the mandate of the 1540 Committee has been renewed for 10 years.

Resolution 1977 (2011) provided the Committee with the resources to more effectively carry out its mandate, but they must be put to use. We must formally establish a group of experts, and the Committee itself must work to that end by submitting its recommendations to the Council as soon as possible, in accordance with the resolution. The Committee must also set out, as provided for in the resolution, specific priorities for its work in its annual programme and work on sharing experiences and best practices.

It is only by fully utilizing these new instruments that we will enhance the effectiveness of the 1540 Committee and help countries to counter terrorism in a concrete manner.

France is determined to promote the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). We recently submitted to the Committee our national action plan, which outlines our actions at the international level in support of the resolution and the competences that we can mobilize to lend assistance to the countries that request it.

During its presidency of the Group of Eight (G-8), France was active in the dialogue of the G-8 working group with the 1540 Committee experts, in particular regarding issues relating to assistance. As members know, my country coordinates the Committee's Working Group on Assistance, and progress has already been made in that respect. The Committee thus has a follow-up mechanism for requests for and offers of assistance, which includes a regularly updated database, as outlined at the G-8 meeting held in October.

We also welcome the specific visits made to countries, with the holding of a first visit to Washington, D.C., in September and several others at the preparation stage. Moreover, a number of areas are under consideration with a view to improving the Committee's procedures in terms of assistance, better responding to the needs of countries in that regard, and continuing dialogue with all relevant organizations.

Lastly, we should also continue our efforts to achieve coordination among the United Nations bodies that are involved in counter-terrorism and strengthen cooperation with other entities, such as, for instance, the recently established Global Counterterrorism Forum. We are counting on the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to help move this cooperation forward.

Mr. DeLaurentis (United States of America): I wish at the outset to thank Ambassadors Puri, Wittig and Sangqu for their briefings.

In September, the Secretary-General hosted an extremely productive high-level symposium on counter-terrorism, marking the tenth anniversary of the events of 11 September 2001. That event allowed Member States to speak about the different contributions that the United Nations has made over the past decade to counter and prevent terrorism in all its forms and build a global community to speak out against it. The symposium also demonstrated broad support for United Nations efforts to counter violent extremism.

Much of the focus was on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the only universally approved approach to combating and preventing terrorism, and on the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), which, since its creation in 2005, has played a key role in strengthening cooperation and coordination among the now 31 parts of the United Nations system with a role in supporting implementation of the Strategy. The adoption of the Strategy and the institutionalization of CTITF, as well as the recent establishment of the United Nations Centre on Counter-Terrorism within the CTITF office, represent milestones in the evolution of the United Nations counter-terrorism programme and deserve our strong support.

Also in September, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism (CTC) hosted an event marking the tenth anniversary of the adoption of that resolution and the establishment of the CTC. Over the past decade, the Council has shown a remarkable commitment to promoting the implementation of a resolution that helped galvanize the global movement to strengthen national and regional legal policy and institutional counter-terrorism frameworks.

Since the Council established the Counter-Terrorism Committee, in the fall of 2001, the CTC has developed tailored interactive counter-terrorism dialogues with States. That has led to the gathering of unprecedented amounts of information on national efforts to implement resolution 1373 (2001), in what has essentially been a worldwide audit of counter-terrorism capacities. Partly as a result, many States have revised existing counter-terrorism laws, or adopted new ones, and ratified and implemented the universal instruments related to terrorism. In addition, the CTC has succeeded in identifying capacity gaps and in engaging with a range of assistance providers to help countries receive the training that they need.

The evolution of the United Nations institutional counter-terrorism framework, culminating with the establishment of the United Nations Centre on Counter-Terrorism, has been encouraging. We hope that it will continue to evolve with the appointment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator to serve as both the chair of the CTITF and the Secretary-General's special adviser on counter-terrorism issues.

With that enhanced political and institutional support within the United Nations system, we hope that there will be even more flexibility for the CTC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to address some of the critical counter-terrorism challenges. For example, more work remains to strengthen national sanctions regimes to take action against a broad range of terrorism threats and in countering the increase in kidnapping for ransom as a means of financing terrorism and other criminal activity.

The United Nations also faces challenges in securing unmanned borders, which allow terrorists to travel with impunity, and in strengthening the capacity of civilian courts to prosecute terrorists. The United States is pleased to support CTED-led projects that bring together practitioners to address common counter-terrorism challenges.

The United States would particularly like to thank CTC Chair Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, as well as Executive Director Mike Smith, for their strong leadership. The United States looks forward to intensifying our efforts with CTED and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to ensure that the United Nations responds flexibly to the ever-changing terrorist threat.

With regard to Al-Qaida sanctions, the United States welcomes the significant enhancements to the listing and delisting processes of the regimes of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, outlined most recently in resolution 1989 (2011). The establishment of an independent Ombudsperson empowered to make recommendations to the Committee on de-listing petitions has begun to ensure that such procedures are fair and transparent.

Similarly, we applaud the Committee's ongoing efforts to undertake regular reviews of its list to make certain that the sanctions remain relevant and up to date. We believe that it is imperative that the Committee not lose sight of the need to ensure that such sanctions are fully implemented and appropriately calibrated to address current threats from Al-Qaida and its affiliates. Ensuring a fair process is important, but no less important are advancing our efforts to promote full implementation and ensuring that cases of non-compliance are adequately addressed. We look

forward to working with the Committee and its Monitoring Team to examine the effectiveness of existing measures and to identify practical ways to enhance implementation efforts.

Let me thank Ambassador Wittig and his team, as well as the Secretariat and the Ombudsperson, for their tremendous efforts. They have worked tirelessly to implement the reforms, and we are grateful for their efforts. I also thank the Monitoring Team of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) for its important work in proposing recommendations for improving the Committee's work and in strengthening Member States' implementation of the regime.

Regarding the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation, we want to express our continuing support for Chairman Sangqu. We look forward to 2012 as the Committee takes a more robust role in providing a strong and consistent voice for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). That will require strategies to ensure that all States requesting assistance receive it, and active collaboration with key stakeholders to conduct implementation workshops and training sessions. To ensure greater implementation, the United States has made a voluntary contribution of $3 million to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). We continue to encourage Member States and regional organizations to contribute to the UNODA Trust Fund and to the implementation activities of the 1540 Committee. Such implementation has matured beyond an initiative that is primarily report-focused. We now need to concentrate on implementation. In September, the United States hosted a visit by the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts to observe our domestic efforts to implement the resolution. We hope that other States will invite the Committee to conduct such visits.

Finally, we warmly thank the European Union (EU) and its Polish presidency for their cooperation on the joint United States-EU declaration on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and a fruitful First Committee side event focused on the resolution. The United States strongly encourages additional efforts to improve the overall effectiveness of the 1540 Committee's operations, particularly improved matching of implementation assistance requests with offers of assistance.

The General Assembly presidency and the support of its global partnership will help to make strong partnerships across that spectrum. In addition, we emphasize that the work of the Chair, the Committee, the Group of Experts and UNODA must be better integrated and coordinated within intergovernmental and regional organizations to maximize implementation.

We are pleased by the progress made by the Committees under the capable leadership of the Chairs. The Council's counter-terrorism efforts will guide and reinforce actions of Member States to deter terrorism, including the threats posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliated groups and the proliferation efforts of non-State actors.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We express our gratitude to the Permanent Representatives of India, Germany and South Africa for their reports on the work of the Committees under their leadership.

Russia considers the future stepping up of efforts under the Committees as a precondition to enhancing the effectiveness of the Security Council's contribution to countering global terrorism, which remains one of the main threats to international peace and security. We will continue our active and dynamic work with those subsidiary bodies of the Security Council. Among the activities of the Committees in the period following the May briefing in the Council (see S/PV.6536), we note the following.

The high note of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism (CTC) was the first-ever holding, on 28 September, of an open special meeting commemorating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001) and the CTC's establishment. During the event, on the basis of careful and transparent analysis of the Committee's 10 years of activity, its important role in and the significance of establishing a counter-terrorism substrategy within the United Nations, under its aegis, was acknowledged. The relevance of the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001), including those on counter-terrorism, was also recognized. We stand ready to support that high-profile body and the resolution.

In preparation for that event, the Committee prepared and presented to the Council, together with the outcome document of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, an updated global survey on the

implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) (see S/2011/463, annex). Russia actively participated in the drafting of that document. The report objectively reflects the ongoing work on terrorism, achievements and gaps in implementing the resolution, and the defined modalities for future efforts of the CTC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) for positive cooperation with Member States on future implementation and the elimination of identified shortcomings.

The Committee continued its efforts to encourage States to more actively implement resolution 1624 (2005) on the basis of the CTC plan of action initiated by the Russian Federation. On the basis of the plan, we stand ready to identify priorities for the CTC, such as combating the ideologies of terrorism, preventing the radicalization of societies and fighting violent extremism, terrorist organization recruitment, incitement to terrorist acts and the use of media and the Internet by terrorists.

In line with the plan, the Committee will conduct a series of regional seminars on resolution 1624 (2005), the first of which, for African States, will take place at the end of November in Nairobi. By the end of the year, the CTC will also prepare a global review of the implementation of the resolution to define the status of the situation with regard to priorities. We attach great importance to that work.

We note the effective expert support provided to the CTC by CTED. We believe that the work of the Directorate on assessing terrorist threats and the risks associated with weapons of mass destruction, in particular man-portable air-defence systems from Libya, is in line with the Russian-initiated resolution 2017 (2011).

With respect to the sanctions regime implemented under resolution 1267 (1999), the Russian Federation hopes that the resolution's modification in June will serve to push the Government of Afghanistan to carry out a strategy of national reconciliation and provide additional impetus to achieving internationally agreed upon objectives for reaching a settlement in that country. The Committee must continue to be one of the key mechanisms of the Council in counter-terrorism.

We continue to be convinced that, making a clear distinction between enablers of Al-Qaida and the pure Taliban is very difficult. That is the reason for the existence of duplicate listings on the two sanctions lists, which were unavoidable for objective reasons. We also believe that the adoption of sanctions with respect to individuals or organizations participating in terrorist activities must continue to be done on a case-by-case basis and in line with relevant procedures. We believe that the expanded prerogatives of the Ombudsperson in de-listing under the assigned Security Council mandate and the new procedures for processing de-listing requests seem, at the present stage, exhaustive and reflect optimal levels of transparency in the work of the Committee, which should be commensurate with the threats emanating from Al-Qaida, which, as experience has shown, continue to be significant.

It is well known that in the final analysis the effectiveness of sanctions in countering terrorism depends on the implementation by States of their international obligations in this area. Unfortunately, we must note that there are significant problems in that regard. For instance, the July sanctions list included the terrorist organization Imarat Kavkaz, whose mouthpiece is their website, Kavkazcenter.com, which is hosted by an internet provider in Stockholm. In accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 1989 (2011), that provider should be subject to financial sanctions to hamper its activities as a provider of internet hosting services. To date, the Swedish authorities have not been able to implement the Council's decision in that regard. The website continues to disseminate terrorist propaganda and religious animosity, which is most regrettable.

We value the work of the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts during the reporting period. We welcome the intention of Ambassador Sangqu to make the Committee's action more consistent and well planned. The Committee has continued its assigned activities to implement its mandate in all areas, including taking into account the new objectives of resolution 1977 (2011).

It is important to note that after difficult negotiations an outcome document was adopted that reflects the Committee's and the international community's successes in fulfilling the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) over the past three years. We believe that resolution 1540 (2004) is a key international legal instrument in the effort to stem terrorist access to weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), their means of delivery and related materials. The objectives of the resolution guide States in strengthening national monitoring systems in

non-proliferation by adopting measures to prevent the illegal production, trafficking and transfer of WMDs and their means of delivery by ensuring accountability and the safety and security of dual-use goods through export control and border exchanges.

Resolution 1977 (2011) strengthened the leading role of the United Nations and the Security Council in coordinating multilateral efforts in that regard, spurring the scaling up of such efforts. We believe it is important that the Committee continue to give priority to assisting States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) by coordinating international endeavours to those ends.

For our part, we stand ready to support assistance, particularly in the context of our cooperation on issues related to resolution 1540 (2004), for Member States that are part of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I wish to thank Ambassadors Wittig, Singh Puri and Sangqu for their briefings. I also wish to express my appreciation for their leadership in contributing to the progress of the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism (CTC) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), respectively.

The Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee is an important counter-terrorism tool of the Security Council. Over the past period, the Committee has done a lot of work in splitting the sanctions list, improving the listing and de-listing procedures and updating its work guidance, thus laying a good foundation for the comprehensive implementation of resolution 1989 (2011). China supports the Committee in carrying forward the periodic review of the sanctions list as planned and hopes that Member States will cooperate with the work of the Committee in an active manner, in a joint effort to preserve the authority and effectiveness of the sanctions regime.

On 28 September, the CTC held a special meeting in commemoration of its tenth anniversary. The meeting once again demonstrated the firm resolve of the international community to work together to combat terrorism and injected new impetus to the work of the Committee. China welcomes this turn of events. China supports the CTC in taking measures, such as holding regional symposiums and facilitating technical assistance, to continue to maintain dialogue with Member States and help them with capacity-building in counter-terrorism.

Last April, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1977 (2011), which added a new request to the work of the 1540 Committee. China welcomes the Committee's submission of its work report covering the period from 2008 to 2011, its adoption of its tenth work plan and the achievement of positive progress in promoting the implementation of the resolution in carrying out assistance and outreach activities.

China supports the Committee in continuing with its sound and steady work in promoting the achievement of the goals of resolution 1540 (2004) in a comprehensive, balanced and effective manner and in assisting countries in fulfilling their obligations under the resolution.

China hopes that the Committee will successfully complete its two important tasks in the coming period and come up with recommendations on the establishment of the panel of experts as soon as possible and successfully hold the first annual review of the implementation of the resolution. China is willing to continue to work with others' support and take an active part in the Committee's work in a joint effort in favour of the continued progress of the international non-proliferation process.

Terrorism is the common enemy of the international community. As a victim of terrorism, China is opposed to all forms of terrorism and to the practice of double standards in counter-terrorism efforts. We hope that the international community will continue to strengthen cooperation in a joint effort to defend against and combat terrorism. China supports the United Nations and the Security Council in playing a central role in international counter-terrorism cooperation.

Mr. Fernandes (Brazil): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this debate. We also thank Ambassadors Sangqu, Wittig and Singh Puri for their briefings and for their skilful leadership of the key subsidiary bodies of the Security Council.

In the past decade, the role played by the Security Council in the fight against terrorism has grown and

quickly involved. To continue making progress, a stronger dialogue with the wider United Nations membership is indispensable. The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) has gone a long way in assisting Member States to overcome their shortfalls in implementing the measures set out in resolution 1373 (2001). We encourage the Committee to continue to develop mechanisms to facilitate technical assistance to countries that request it. We also commend the adoption of a regional approach. Attention to the specificities of each region provides us with a clear understanding of the challenges, and results in recommendations that are suited to each country's reality.

Brazil gladly notes that further progress has been made in the work of the Sanctions Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), in particular with regard to due process and the consideration of listing and de-listing requests. The decision taken by the Council in June to strengthen the role of the Ombudsperson reaffirmed our common interest in pursuing working methods that are more in tune with human rights considerations. We encourage the Committee to continue to reach out and take into account the views of other Member States, especially those of the residence and nationality of listed individuals and entities.

Turning to the issue of non-proliferation, we commend the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), particularly in implementing assistance, cooperation and outreach efforts. Brazil also believes that the Committee should work, as much as possible, in close cooperation with other international organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, in order to avoid duplication of effort.

We also welcome the standing cooperation between the 1540 Committee and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. At the same time, Brazil stresses that only a world free of weapons of mass destruction will be able to completely eliminate the threat of the proliferation and use of those weapons. Commitments and efforts on non-proliferation have to be met by the fulfilment of disarmament obligations.

Brazil is confident that the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council will continue to foster cooperation among Member States and help them to overcome obstacles to the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. The delegations of India, Germany and South Africa can count on our full support of that work.

Mr. Onemola (Nigeria): I would like to thank the Permanent Representatives of Germany, India and South Africa for their very insightful briefings on the activities of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), respectively.

Nigeria commends the 1373 Committee, under the dynamic leadership of Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, on the success of its special meeting held on 20 September to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001). The meeting afforded us all an opportunity to review the progress made in achieving the objectives that we established 10 years ago. There is no gainsaying that significant efforts have been made in the past 10 years in facilitating technical assistance and promoting outreach activities and cooperation among States and other stakeholders.

We pay special tribute to the diligent efforts of the Committee as well as of Mr. Mike Smith and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and its Monitoring Team. The efforts of the Committee in updating the global survey on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) are also commendable.

Despite those improvements, much more needs to be done to enhance the institutional capacity of many States, strengthen the existing framework of international cooperation and build new partnerships, particularly in and among regions.

In the same vein, greater emphasis is needed on conditions conducive to the existence and spread of terrorism. Nigeria believes that the effectiveness of our efforts in fighting terrorism correlates with our ability to successfully address the economic, social and political conditions that feed that phenomenon. It is therefore essential that preventing and countering incitement to commit terrorist acts, including that motivated by extremism and intolerance, mark a point of departure in finding a durable solution to the threat of terrorism.

In that regard, we call on the Committee to expedite action on the preparation of a global survey of

the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005). There is no doubt that a proper assessment of the different levels of experience and challenges that exist within countries and regions on the implementation of the resolution would greatly enhance the work of the Committee.

The 1540 Committee plays a crucial role in enhancing the efforts to counter proliferation-related threats. We appreciate the work done by Ambassador Baso Sangqu and the Committee, as well as its Group of Experts, since our last meeting in May (see S/PV.6536). We believe that the Committee worked assiduously in promoting greater understanding of resolution 1540 (2004) among stakeholders, and more visibility for the Committee.

We welcome the adoption of the report (see S/2011/579) of the Committee on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), as well as its tenth programme of work.

The conclusion of work on the establishment of a group of experts is needed to underpin those efforts. Nigeria appreciates the clearing house role of the Committee. The Committee has made great strides forward in improving its procedures for matching offers and requests for assistance. It should strive to sustain those efforts, particularly those aimed at raising awareness of assistance needs and requests by States.

The active engagement of all States is vital in ensuring the effective implementation of resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011). In that connection, we commend the Government of the United States of America for hosting the Committee in September. Such country visits are helpful in promoting dialogue, information sharing and cooperation between the Committee and Member States. It is our hope that the visit by the United States will engender more requests for that type of mission.

Nigeria attaches great importance to the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). We commend Ambassador Peter Wittig, the Committee and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team for sustaining reforms of the sanctions regime. The continuous improvement of the sanctions regime will go a long way in ensuring a reliable and transparent procedure.

We reiterate the importance of consulting affected States during the listing and de-listing of individuals and entities from the consolidated list and of consistencies with international standards of due process, international law and respect for human rights, in order to reinforce the credibility of the sanctions regime.

The decision of the Council to split its regime relating to resolution 1267 (1999) has positioned the Committee for better performance. This will also help to refocus attention on preventing and addressing existing threats in a more effective manner. The Committee should conclude the process of revising the guidelines and the conduct of its work in order to ensure that evolving Al-Qaida threats are adequately addressed.

The giant stride to improve the working methods, including the decision to publish narrative summaries of reasons for listings on its website and the addition of the Ombudsperson's recommendation to cases reviewed by her Office, are important developments in the Committee's reform process. We welcome the remarkable efforts of Ms. Kimberly Prost in assisting the Committee's work.

Nigeria is pleased with the close cooperation among the three Security Council Committees and with other organizations, within and outside the United Nations. We encourage them to sustain their joint efforts to improve information-sharing and to coordinate relationships with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and participation within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

Mr. Osorio (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, allow me to express my appreciation to Ambassador Sangqu of South Africa, Ambassador Wittig of Germany and Ambassador Singh Puri of India for their detailed reports on the activities of the counter-terrorism Committees and for their dynamic and excellent efforts in leading those activities. The recommendations and analyses in their briefings deserve our careful attention.

The Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) are essential mechanisms to ensure the implementation of the obligations derived from those instruments. It is therefore essential to continue coordinating their activities, to continuously assess their working methods and to revitalize their tools in

order to facilitate assistance and cooperation to Member States.

The 1540 Committee has shown a positive trend in the implementation by States of measures to prevent nuclear, chemical and/or biological weapons and their delivery systems from falling into the hands of armed non-State actors, and to prevent the spread of such weapons by strengthening the international non-proliferation regimes.

Among the Committee's activities, two deserve special mention: the adoption of the report (see S/2011/579) on compliance with resolution 1540 (2004), submitted in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1810 (2008); and the adoption of its tenth programme of work. In addition, the four working groups created in 2009 as part of the Committee's eighth programme of work, which focus on national monitoring and national implementation, assistance, cooperation with international organizations and transparency and media outreach, respectively, have proven to be very useful in making the work of the Committee more efficient and effective.

The organization of outreach activities at the national, subregional and regional levels has been useful to efforts to promote Member State implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). In that spirit, Colombia will hold, next March in Bogotá, a regional workshop for representatives of Governments, the private sector and civil society. This will be a valuable opportunity to promote and facilitate interaction between Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations.

The 1540 Committee has been an important partner in the context of non-proliferation. Its cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations has made an effective contribution to improving border and export controls, increasing technical assistance and building national capacities. We recognize, however, that much remains to be done. The threat remains extremely serious and we can confront it only by adopting appropriate and effective measures.

Regarding the 1267 Committee, Colombia welcomes the reforms of the regime introduced in resolution 1989 (2011), which are aimed at improving respect for due process, transparency and quality of the information contained in the consolidated list.

The establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson and the strengthening of its mandate in resolution 1989 (2011) have been fundamental steps in efforts to strengthen and ensure the legitimacy of the regime. The number of de-listing requests processed by the Office, the reports that it has presented to the Committee and the decisions taken to date as a result of its efforts show that this is an essential entity that could be replicated in all sanctions committees.

In order to benefit the sanctions regime, two areas need to be strengthened: the quality of information submitted by States when proposing names for inclusion on the sanctions list, and the provision of technical assistance to States in order to facilitate the full implementation of their obligations.

I will now refer to the 1373 Committee. We agree with Ambassador Puri on the relevance of the special meeting commemorating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001) and the outcome document adopted, which reflects the issues on which there is consensus within the Organization.

We also highlight the publication of the global implementation survey of resolution 1373 (2001), updated to 2011, which provides an overview of the progress achieved in implementing the various aspects of the resolution and assesses the evolution and emergence of risks. Despite the deficiencies and gaps identified in the survey, States have clearly made significant progress and now have more appropriate legal and operational frameworks to fight terrorism.

That is why the Committee must strengthen its dialogue with Member States and work closely and in a coordinated manner with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and other United Nations bodies, which have the experience and the mandate to assist States in capacity-building to implement the numerous international instruments related to the fight against terrorism, including the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

We agree with the Chair of the 1373 Committee that there is a need to continue paying particular attention to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. In that regard, we highlight the emphasis given in resolutions 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010) to this core aspect of international counter-terrorism efforts. Colombia is convinced that more attention needs to be given to

defending and protecting the rights of victims. We must ensure that the voices of the victims are heard and that States have appropriate mechanisms for redress. To that end, targeted measures should be promoted in order to protect, promote and recognize the rights of victims.

My delegation welcomes the briefing given to the 1373 Committee by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. We trust that the Committee will hold more such exchanges and continue to cooperate closely with his office.

In conclusion, and stressing the importance that Colombia attaches to defending and protecting the rights of victims of terrorism, I would like to draw attention to the forthcoming publication of the handbook on criminal justice responses to terrorism, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in collaboration with some States, including Colombia. We hope that the handbook will provide the basis for the capacity-building activities undertaken by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to ensure that the voices of the victims are heard in criminal proceedings.

Mr. Assaf (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me to thank the Chairmen of the three Committees, the Permanent Representatives of India, Germany and South Africa, for their comprehensive briefings and ongoing efforts with all members of the Security Council to promote international counter-terrorism cooperation. I would like to make the following comments.

First, with respect to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, we commend the measures adopted by consensus by the Security Council in resolution 1989 (2011) to enhance the transparency and fairness of the working methods of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and to guarantee the fundamental rights of the individuals and entities on the sanctions list. Those objectives will be achieved, in particular, by promoting and enhancing the mandate of the Ombudsperson, whose recommendations for the listing and de-listing of names have now essentially become decisive. That will put an end to cases of arbitrary listing.

The number of requests submitted to the Ombudsperson to date attests to her important role. We therefore believe it necessary to provide the Ombudsperson with all the logistical resources required to carry out her duties and fulfil her mandate.

We also commend the efforts of the Committee and its Monitoring Team, which have led to the publication, on the Committee's website and in the six official languages of the Organization, of the reasons for the listing of all names. We further emphasize the importance of continuously updating the consolidated list and removing the names of individuals with insufficient identifying information, as well as the names of entities that have ceased to exist. That will help to promote the reliability and accuracy of the list and enhance the implementation of sanctions by various States. In the same context, we believe it necessary for the Committee to justify all of its decisions. Lebanon insists that sanctions always be in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and its human rights provisions.

Secondly, with regard to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), we commend the efforts of Committee and its Executive Directorate to promote the legislative and institutional capacities of States to combat terrorism, which continues to develop in various forms and means. We also encourage continued dialogue, cooperation and coordination with States and regional organizations to implement resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions, because combating terrorism can be complemented by national, regional and international measures.

We welcome the 2011 global survey on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) by Member States (S/2011/463, annex), which evaluated the progress achieved in implementing that resolution in various geographic areas. It addressed the developing challenges and risks and discussed existing gaps in implementation and how to tackle them. We look forward to the issuance of a similar study on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) by the end of this year.

We also emphasize the importance of the meeting of this Committee on the tenth anniversary of its establishment, which provided an opportunity for all States and international and regional organizations to express their position on counter-terrorism. We call for

taking into consideration the various points of view offered during that meeting in the next stage of the Committee's work.

Thirdly, I turn to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). We welcome the most recent report of that Committee (S/2011/579) and its tenth programme of work. We emphasize the importance of supporting and cooperating with it in order to achieve the objectives set out in resolution 1977 (2011). We especially support current efforts to implement operational paragraph 5 (b) of that resolution.

With Lebanon's membership in the Security Council coming to a close, it is important for us to stress the importance of paragraph 17 of the final document on the Committee's 2009 comprehensive review (S/2010/52, annex), which discusses the importance of efforts that can be carried out by States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) after their membership on the Committee has ended.

We also commend the efforts of the four Working Groups, on Monitoring and National Implementation, Assistance, Cooperation with International Organizations, and Transparency and Outreach. We further find that the assistance provided by the Committee and expert groups to countries that request it is more than a principal factor in the implementation of the resolution. That assistance also enhances the exchange of expertise and capacity-building for taking effective measures at the national level to prevent terrorists and non-State actors from reaching sensitive materials and technologies related to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, whether nuclear, chemical or biological.

We would like to remind members of the efforts of the League of Arab States in this context and to emphasize the importance of making the Middle East a zone free of such weapons. We welcome the appointment of a facilitator to prepare for the 2012 conference on establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, in implementation of the action plan set out in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Lebanon knows very well the dangers of terrorism because of the attacks it has suffered over so many years. We emphasize our continued constructive cooperation with the three Committees and our full support for international efforts to combat terrorism.

Furthermore, in the face of continued horrible terrorist attacks today, which have also targeted United Nations offices and its various bodies, we are more convinced than ever that the success of counter-terrorism efforts will above all require addressing the root causes of terrorism and the removal of the factors that nurture it by eliminating areas of tension and double standards in the implementation of international legitimacy, as well as by putting an end to foreign occupation, ignorance and poverty. We also encourage promoting the culture of acceptance of others, along with dialogue between various cultures and religions, as an indispensable tool for the success of anti-terrorism efforts.

Mr. Barbalić (Bosnia and Herzegovina): We are reminded every day that terrorism still represents an undefeated, challenging and demanding threat of our times. Therefore, the fight against terrorism holds the highest priority. We are certain that only our joint efforts and coordinated and decisive action can lead to its ultimate defeat.

We thank Ambassador Wittig, Ambassador Puri and Ambassador Sangqu for their leadership in those efforts as Chairs of the committees that hold and play an essential role in the overall counterterrorism framework. Their detailed briefings have provided us with an opportunity to re-evaluate tools and measures taken, as well as to consider future steps in order to further improve the Council's efforts in countering this global and ever-present threat.

The past six months brought considerable changes to the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), with the primary focus on strengthening and further enhancing its procedures and specific elements. Resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011), adopted in June this year, were a direct result of the changing dynamics in the maintenance of international peace and security and our fight against terrorism. The split of the 1267 regime was a necessary response to different requirements and the evolved threat of terrorism, where somewhat specific new approaches and perspectives were needed for our fight against terrorism to be more efficient.

My country fully supported the reform of the sanctions regime, as resolution 1989 (2011) further

reinforced and strengthened substantial improvements introduced in resolutions 1822 (2008) and 1904 (2009). I particularly wish to emphasize the additionally enhanced role of the Ombudsperson and the new delisting procedures as crucial aspects in the continuous demand for a more clear, fair and effective overall system.

As we focus on the implementation of those newly introduced elements, we are also aware that upholding the credibility of the sanctions regime by means of its effectiveness, transparency and fairness requires our constant attention and the careful consideration of future steps.

The date of 28 September was significant in both 2001, when resolution 1373 (2001) was adopted, and in 2011, when States reconfirmed the essential role and importance of that resolution in the overall counter-terrorism framework. As we put special emphasis on its full implementation and the further strengthening of its key aspects, together with resolution 1624 (2005), we unconditionally support every effort of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, together with the valuable assistance of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, in that respect.

Thematic discussions and regional presentations within the Committee bring more focus on challenges, deficiencies and difficulties in the implementation of the respective resolutions. We are pleased to see that the plans of the Chair are moving in the direction of continued engagement of the Committee in those discussions and making enhanced use of its outcomes and results. That can significantly complement the monitoring component and appropriately direct the delivery of technical assistance. We also note with satisfaction that regular briefings for Member States proved to be a step in the right direction and an indispensable tool in enhancing transparency and efficiency, creating a wider forum for the exchange of views and recommendations.

The prevention of proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, especially their potential acquisition by non-State actors, is critical to international peace and security. With the unanimous adoption of resolution 1977 (2011) and the 10-year extension of the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the Council sent a strong message that resolution 1540 (2004) remains an important instrument of the global non-proliferation and counter-terrorism regimes.

Bosnia and Herzegovina attaches great importance to the role played by the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts in promoting the implementation of the resolution. We welcome in this respect the Committee's report (see S/2011/579) on compliance with resolution 1540 (2004), submitted to the Security Council in September. The report acknowledges that, whil nportant progress has been made, further efforts are required to fully implement resolution 1540 (2004). The report also contains important recommendations that should serve as a basis for the Committee's future work.

We all are aware that the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) requires continuous long-term efforts at the national, regional and international levels. We also need to bear in mind that, for many States, the comprehensive implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) presents a very complex and costly process. Therefore, we look forward to the Committee's efforts to strengthen its role in channelling assistance to States in need and matching requests with States providers of assistance. Bosnia and Herzegovina would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our call upon Member States to extend their financial contributions in order to support States in identifying and addressing their needs in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

In conclusion, terrorism is a global phenomenon and no country can defeat it on its own. The complexity of terrorism requires an equally complex and comprehensive response, while cooperation and coordination among all relevant stakeholders are sine qua non conditions. Bosnia and Herzegovina will, for its part, continue to give its fullest support and contribute to the overall international efforts in countering terrorism, through our actions at both the State and the international levels.

Mr. Moungara Moussotsi (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): The threat of terrorism continues to loom over international peace and security. The heinous terrorist acts recently committed in Nigeria highlight their perpetrators' contempt for human life and all the values we hold dear. I take this opportunity to express yet again, and vehemently, my country's strong condemnation of such acts and those who commit them. The ongoing threat remains so strong that to

defeat the scourge of terrorism will require increased focus and vigilance on the part of the Council. My delegation thanks Ambassadors Wittig, Puri and Sangqu for their briefings on the work of the Committees they chair.

We express our firm support for the actions and mechanisms of the fight against terrorism put in place by resolution 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) on Al-Qaida sanctions, 1373 (2001), which led to the creation of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and resolution 1540 (2004) on weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

I would like to say a few words about the work of the Committees. Regarding the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated persons and entities, my delegation commends the Council's 17 June adoption of resolution 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011), creating new sanctions regimes for the Taliban in Afghanistan and Al-Qaida, respectively. We also applaud the commitment of the Committee, with the help of the Secretariat and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, to implement resolution 1989 (2011), in particular by carrying out the provisions governing its working methods.

Moreover, strengthening the mandate of the Ombudsperson in the de-listing persons and entities on sanctions lists is a significant and welcome step forward, especially in allowing the Ombudsperson to make recommendations to the Committee on those cases. My delegation believes that the Ombudsperson and the Monitoring Team must continue to lend their valuable support to the Committee in order to bolster its effectiveness, transparency and fairness.

The Committee must also maintain communications with the Member States in order to improve its grasp of the difficulties they face. Increased contact at the regional and subregional levels would contribute greatly to enhanced cooperation, facilitating implementation by States of resolution 1989 (2011). Continued cooperation in information-sharing between the Committee and INTERPOL remains essential. We encourage the Committee to continue reviewing the lists for entities that no longer exist and for listings that are not sufficiently warranted.

Regarding the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), established by resolution 1373 (2001), of which my country chairs subcommittee C, the special event commemorating the tenth anniversary of resolution 1373 (2001) organized by the CTC and CTED on 28 September focused on the principle of zero tolerance and the need to take a multidimensional approach in the fight against terrorism, which we welcome.

In that regard, Mr. President, my delegation would like to thank you for your initiative to address the role of peacekeeping missions in the fight against terrorism. It is also encouraging to note that the Committee updated the global survey of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), assessing the nature and degree of the difficulties countries have in fully implementing that resolution.

We take this opportunity to stress that Gabon believes that strengthening the capacities of States in confronting terrorism is essential to an effective global strategy to fight terrorism, because in places where the State security structure is in crisis an increase in terrorist acts is always a serious threat. Effective measures aimed at strengthening national capacities, bearing in mind specific needs and known threats, should be urgently undertaken.

Regarding the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), my delegation welcomes its presentation on 12 September 2011 of its report (S/2011/579) on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), and on 17 June of its tenth programme of work. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is a serious threat to international peace and security. In that regard and pursuant to its programme of work, the Committee will have to better promote international instruments of non-proliferation and disarmament to effectively fight that phenomenon.

The Committee should also improve its dialogue with the 1267 and 1989 Committees and the Counter-Terrorism Committee, maintaining sufficiently close cooperation to confront threats specific to some States or regions, such as the illicit movement of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. It should also promote cooperation with international, regional and interregional organizations, as well as education, collaboration and assistance to drive forward the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

In conclusion, the fight against terrorism demands more engaged international cooperation, and we must make sure that the relevant mechanisms fulfil their role in building the capacities of States that are

ill-equipped to effectively engage in the fight against the scourge. Our efforts in the fight must combine in a global approach that strictly honours the obligations imposed by international law, human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law.

Mr. Tatham (United Kingdom): I would like to thank the Chairs of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), and of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), Ambassadors Wittig, Puri and Sangqu, for their comprehensive briefings today and for their effective leadership of those Committees.

We have passed an important milestone since we last met in this format. In September we marked the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the subsequent adoption of resolution 1373 (2001). The attacks of 9/11 changed the way we viewed terrorism. It was the first time we had faced such a global terrorist threat, and it provided an essential impetus to strengthening international cooperation.

Much has been achieved by the Counter-Terrorism Committee over the last 10 years. This includes building counter-terrorism legislation, strengthening law-enforcement bodies and helping to create units to tackle terrorist financing. The United Kingdom supports the Counter-Terrorism Committee's continuing cooperation with Member States as they build their capacity to deal with terrorism in all its forms.

Let me now turn to the Al-Qaida sanctions regime. The adoption of resolution 1989 (2011) in June this year was an important step in our collective endeavour to ensure that sanctions against Al-Qaida remain effective, responsive and fair.

Resolution 1989 (2011) introduced important changes in how the regime works. Most notably, it further strengthened the Office of the Ombudsperson by introducing the power to make recommendations on de-listing, by urging States to provide information, including confidential information, and by encouraging individuals challenging their listing in courts to submit their cases to the Ombudsperson. The United Kingdom also welcomed innovations in de-listing processes, particularly through the introduction of two so-called smart sunset clauses.

We believe that these changes have helped the Al-Qaida sanctions regime maintain its relevance. Nimbler and more transparent de-listing procedures mean that the regime is better placed to respond to the evolving terrorist threat, while protecting the rights of individuals. We believe that the procedures the Council introduced will lead to a more targeted and focused tool.

As we work together in combating terrorism, we do not forget the challenges posed to our collective security by proliferation. All countries, regardless of whether they hold chemical, biological or nuclear materials, have a responsibility under resolution 1540 (2004) to take action to prevent proliferation. We were encouraged that most States have provided initial reports to the Committee, but it is important that all States provide updates as they make progress in implementing the resolution. States should also recognize that action undertaken, for example, when improving border security, is relevant to resolution 1540 (2004), and making such linkages will enable more effective reporting to the Committee.

I would like to close by reiterating the importance that the United Kingdom attaches to the Security Council's fight against terrorism, as well as our ongoing commitment to the work of the 1989, 1373 and 1540 Committees.

The President: I will now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Portugal.

First, I would like to thank Ambassadors Sangqu, Wittig and Puri for their comprehensive briefings, and also to commend them for their work, leadership and commitment in chairing the three Security Council Committees focused on the fight against terrorism.

I would also like to say that Portugal aligns itself with the statement that will be delivered later by the representative of the European Union.

Concerning the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), we are pleased to note that the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), assisted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), continues to pursue its very productive work. We note with particular appreciation the recent special meetings of the Committee, with wide participation by States and international organizations, including a separate event for members of civil society. The issuing of the 2011 edition of the

global survey on universal implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) (S/2011/463, annex) also represents a very welcome and useful achievement.

I would like to focus in particular on the following elements contained in the report, to which we attach special importance. First is the preventive aspects of the fight against terrorism. We are pleased to note their relevance to the CTC's current framework of activities, and we encourage the Committee to pursue this direction. Secondly, on human rights and the rules of law, we strongly believe that by promoting and protecting human rights while fighting terrorism, States and other international actors contribute solidly to preventing terrorism by addressing the conditions conducive to its development and spread. Thirdly, regional approaches, cooperation with international organizations and capacity-building programmes are key tools already well incorporated into the guidelines and practice of the CTC and CTED's actions, which we strongly encourage and support.

Turning to the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), we very much support the positive reported achievements, particularly as regards, on one side, the publication on the website of narrative summaries of the reasons for all listings, and on the other, the important developments concerning the activities of the Office of the Ombudsperson. These achievements are good news and significantly enhance due process and the transparency of the sanctions regime.

Taking into account the new framework for action established by resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011), we also congratulate the Committee and its Monitoring Team for the action taken in re-evaluating the links between Al-Qaida and the Afghan Taliban. It represents an important element in updating the assessment of the terrorist threat and provides a useful contribution to more focused action by the 1267 and 1989 Committee, together with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011).

As for the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), I welcome all the work done since resolution 1977 (2011) was adopted in April. I welcome in particular the ongoing efforts to better outline the annual review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), with a forward-looking perspective that will provide useful information to the Council on matters that might need further attention, as well as on practical guidelines to facilitate the matchmaking between requests for and offers of assistance. I also share the sense of urgency in achieving agreed recommendations, in accordance with paragraph 5 (b) of resolution 1977 (2011), on expertise requirements, broad geographic representation, working methods, modalities and structure, including consideration of the feasibility of a coordination and leadership position of the group of experts.

Lastly, I wish to underline the importance of the joint European Union-United States declaration in October regarding resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011), reaffirming our strong commitment to full and comprehensive implementation of their provisions, as well as to strengthening of the role and capacity of the 1540 Committee.

In a final word, I would like to welcome the cooperation among the three Committees, which we strongly support and encourage. Sharing information, joint visits and assessments, enhanced coordination of efforts and initiatives and further interaction in matters of common interest, including within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, are indeed very important tools for maximizing the effectiveness of the action developed by each of the three Committees mandated to fight terrorism.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Kodama (Japan): At the outset, I would like to pay tribute to the Chairs of the Council's three counter-terrorism-related Committees for their informative and comprehensive briefings on developments during the last six months.

We commend the successful holding of the Secretary-General's symposium on international counter-terrorism cooperation, and the special meeting held in September of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001) and to advance international cooperation in that area. As this year marks a milestone in our collective efforts to combat terrorism, we feel confident that those meetings provided a good opportunity for the international community to reflect on and review the progress made to date in the fight against terrorism.

We also welcome the fact that the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) has been officially launched, at the initiative of the United States of America, and has already begun its activities. The GCTF is a new and unprecedented forum intended to foster discussion on counter-terrorism measures. We expect that through the sharing of experience and good practices through candid discussion in the five working groups under the GCTF, international cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism will be further strengthened. We also hope that close cooperation and constructive dialogue between the GCTF and the three Committees will contribute to a more coherent and holistic implementation of counterterrorism measures.

We welcome the recent remarkable progress in the field of counterterrorism, including the deaths of Al-Qaida leaders Osama Bin Laden and Anwar Al-Awlaki. Such successes notwithstanding, we must bear in mind the fact that the deaths of some of Al-Qaida's executive members do not mean that Al-Qaida itself has been annihilated, and we must remember that Al-Qaida still has the capacity to conduct serious terrorist attacks.

Terrorism continues to be an imminent and global threat. The deep-seated problems surrounding terrorism, such as radicalization and terrorism financing, must be addressed in an appropriate manner. To eradicate terrorism, a multifaceted approach by all stakeholders is also vital. The three Committees have played a significant role in this context and should further enhance their efforts in this field.

We welcome the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011), by which sanctions against Al-Qaida and the Taliban are divided and implemented separately. In particular, the enhancement of the Ombudsperson's role in the process of delisting some persons from the consolidated list is highly appreciated. We believe that this measure will improve the legitimacy and credibility of United Nations counter-terrorism measures. In order to improve the effectiveness of sanctions, it is essential to ensure the credibility of the consolidated list. In that regard, we wish to underscore the importance of the continuous review of the consolidated list. The Government of Japan is ready to cooperate actively with the work of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, the Ombudsperson and the monitoring team.

We welcome the publication of the report by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). The importance of global efforts in the area of non-proliferation cannot be overstated. In order to ensure sufficient support from Member States, it is essential that they be requested not only to take measures to implement the resolution but also to make the activities of the 1540 Committee known and to enhance transparency. In support of the work of the 1540 Committee, Japan hosted in May 2011 a seminar on non-proliferation and disarmament, aimed at increasing awareness and promoting the sharing of knowledge and experiences among Member States. As a follow-up to this effort, we will organize another seminar on 5 December.

It is critical that all Member States make a concerted effort for the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions through measures such as introducing legislation on export control and strengthening their capacity in this area by increasing the levels of relevant personnel and reinforcing the relevant organizations. It is equally important to involve all Member States in discussions on how to achieve such objectives. Japan will continue to cooperate closely with the activities of the 1540 Committee.

In conclusion, we strongly hope that the three Committees will make a determined effort to enhance their mutual cooperation while avoiding any duplication of work, as well as to cooperate with Member States and other relevant organizations for our common goal of eradicating terrorism. The Government of Japan will continue to take all possible measures to counter terrorism and to cooperate positively in the efforts of the three Committees.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation felicitates you, Mr. President, for your excellent stewardship of the Security Council. We also congratulate Ambassador Joy Ogwu and the Permanent Mission of Nigeria for their successful presidency of the Council during October 2011.

We are grateful to the Chairs of the Committees for their briefings, which are a valued form of direct

interaction between Member States and the Committees.

In the interest of brevity, I shall read out an abridged version of our statement; the full text will be circulated to delegations.

Pakistan strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. Terrorism and extremism should not be associated with any religion, race, ethnicity, faith, value system, culture or society. No religious tradition or doctrine should be depicted as encouraging or inspiring acts of terrorism.

Pakistan, as the biggest victim of terrorism, has paid an enormous price in blood and treasure in the fight against this scourge.

Pakistan has made considerable progress in countering the financing of terrorism. Pakistan has become a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and has enacted a landmark anti-money-laundering bill. A financial monitoring unit has been established in the State Bank of Pakistan to monitor suspicious financial transactions.

We welcome the split of the sanctions regime under resolution 1267 (1999) into the Al-Qaida Committee and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011), focusing on the Taliban with its country-specific regime. We hope that the separation of Committees will go a long way towards refocusing the energies of the international community in a more precise manner.

Pakistan appreciates the fact that the role of the Ombudsperson has been enhanced in Security Council resolution 1989 (2011).

We believe that Security Council resolution 1977 (2011), which extended the mandate of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), should have been negotiated after an open debate in the Security Council in which all Members of the United Nations would have had the opportunity to express their views, inter alia, on scope, limitations, future direction, tenure of mandate and experiences on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Such an open debate would have provided a sound basis for negotiating the extension of the 1540 Committee. An open and inclusive process for discussing the resolution would have helped to increase the level of confidence of all States Members of the United Nations in this process, as they are the ones that ultimately are required to implement the resolution, which has its roots in State-driven efforts.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Spain.

Mr. De Laiglesia (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I appreciate this opportunity for my delegation to participate in this open debate on the activities undertaken by the three Security Council Committees involved in the fight against terrorism. In that regard, I associate myself fully with the statement to be made later by the representative of the delegation of the European Union.

Terrorism is an aggressive, ever-changing phenomenon that requires us to continue to promote and strengthen cooperation at every level, with no room for complacency. We must be able to face new threats such as terrorism's growing links with international organized crime and illegal trafficking, the risk of nuclear terrorism and cyberterrorism.

Unilateral or improvised solutions are not a valid alternative; a legitimate and systematic perspective based on international cooperation is required. We can congratulate ourselves for having contributed to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the relevant Security Council resolutions and the international legal instruments in force.

The United Nations system has been carrying out important work in the fight against terrorism and should continue to play a significant role as the guarantor of international law. We believe that the Security Council's work should be carried out in complementarity with the efforts of the General Assembly, as the forum in which the responses of the international community to the global problems of our time should be addressed.

I should like to reiterate the firm commitment of Spain to the fight against all forms of terrorism, whatever its motivations or manifestations, and my Government's wish that this undertaking have ongoing priority in the context of the agenda of the United Nations.

I should like also to reiterate our full support for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, which during its six years of existence has become an instrument of preventive diplomacy with political,

social, judicial, economic, religious, media and security dimensions, as well as in the area of intercultural dialogue. Political and moral reasons should influence us in providing assistance and support to victims of terrorism. The convening by the Secretary-General of a new symposium in support of victims of terrorism, as a continuation of the one held in 2008, would be greatly appreciated by Spain.

I would like to thank the Chairs of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) for the information provided and for the work that they have carried out together with their respective expert groups.

First, Spain would like to highlight the work of the 1267 Committee. We value its efforts to increase the transparency of the review and updating of the names of persons and entities on the consolidated list to the sanctions regime. The Council's adoption of resolution 1989 (2011) led to an improvement of the Committee's proceedings and the quality of the list. We underscore the need to continue to ensure the impartiality and transparency of those proceedings and the important role of the Ombudsperson in improving that impartiality and transparency. We also wish to emphasize the important work of the Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), and we welcome the extension of its mandate for another 18 months.

Spain also wishes to highlight the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate (CTED) to monitor compliance with resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010) and to facilitate technical assistance to countries that request it. The work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate in the past 10 years has been of great importance in promoting and monitoring compliance with resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). The efforts of CTED to meet its mandate should be commended. Convinced of the great value of its contributions, we consider it desirable to reinforce its human and material capacities in order to have a stronger direct presence and assistance on the ground in recipient countries.

The adoption of resolution 1963 (2010), which extended the mandate of the Executive Directorate, will increase its participation in the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and make it the great facilitator of technical assistance to strengthen the capacities of States, thereby strengthening the desired coordination in the fight against terrorism.

The proliferation and possession of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors or by States on the margins or in violation of international legality are serious threats to international peace and security. We therefore express our support for the efforts of the 1540 Committee to draw up mechanisms to monitor the implementation of that resolution and to work to extend its universal application. Spain welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 1977 (2011), which extends and strengthens the mandate of that Committee in the vital context of Member States' full and strict compliance with their obligations and commitments in relation to arms control, disarmament and the non-proliferation in all its aspects of all weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.

Allow me to underscore the importance of the framework's entities that answer to the Security Council and those under the Secretariat, and more closely linked to the General Assembly, maintaining sufficiently flexibility and coordination to enable a consistent, complementary and integrated action in our efforts to eradicate terrorism. We are ready to continue the necessary consideration and discussions to further improve the framework that we have established.

I conclude by expressing my appreciation for the efforts of the three Committees to improve the effectiveness of their work. The increasing awareness of the need to respect the rights of individuals in all measures is also encouraging. With that essential respect for human rights, the international community must demonstrate its strong determination to confront the barbarity of terrorism.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mr. Prosor (Israel): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important debate. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the Chairpersons of the counter-terrorism committees for their informative briefings.

Today's meeting is an opportunity to put out a call for effective and collective action in the fight against terrorism around the world. That is an imperative for the international community. Divided, we cannot address the core challenges of terrorism; united, we can; and for the sake of our children and our common security, we also must do so.

Last September, the Security Council adopted an outcome document to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001). It highlighted the close links between terrorists and criminal networks, illustrating the clear connection among terrorist activity, money-laundering and illegal arms and narcotics trafficking. Time and again, we see that terrorists will take advantage of any weakness in governance and international cooperation to advance their aims.

A gap in any State's counter-terrorism capacity is a weak link that can be exploited, with potentially devastating consequences for the rest of the world. We must face that challenge together. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provides an important framework for collective action. Each and every Member State must recognize its role in advancing the full implementation of that Strategy, along with all other relevant Security Council resolutions.

The recent global survey by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism (CTC) of the implementation of the resolution (see S/2011/463, annex) illustrates the great challenges that still lie ahead. Large areas of the globe remain vulnerable. Many States have failed to enact national counter-terrorism legislation that meets international standards. Issues such as border control, incitement and the financing of terrorism remain pressing concerns.

Like the illicit trade in arms, drugs and persons, terrorism and radicalization take place in areas where the rule of law is dormant. We must pay greater attention, at both the legislative and the law enforcement levels, to the increasing links between terrorist organizations, such as Hezbollah, and international criminal networks. Those dangers are tightly woven together and the criminal-terrorist fabric must be addressed as a whole.

Technical assistance is another area where there are significant opportunities for improvement. I would like to reiterate my country's call to conduct a new assessment of technical assistance for counter-terrorism. The need for such a study is clear. The international community needs to develop a knowledge base so that it can tailor technical assistance programmes more effectively, efficiently and constructively. We must understand the extent of participation in existing programmes and how they improve States' long-term ability to fight terrorism. In cases where the benefits of technical assistance have not materialized, we should ask difficult questions. Successful models should be shared as best practices.

Israel continues to share its unique expertise with others in that global fight. We are closely engaged in capacity-building initiatives with a number of States and regional organizations in Africa, South and Central America, East and Central Asia and other regions around the world. Such collaborative efforts span a range of issues from terrorist financing to aviation security and from money-laundering to border protection.

The Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities has made several important changes in its procedures since the Council's last briefing. In June, the Council empowered the Ombudsperson to offer recommendations for de-listing. That is an important step forward. Israel supports the ongoing efforts to increase fairness, transparency and due process in the Committee's work.

We must develop more effective international standards to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and dual-use items. The international community has a clear duty to do whatever it takes to keep the world's most dangerous weapons out of the hands of its most dangerous terrorists and regimes. In that regard, I wish to reiterate Israel's support for resolution 1540 (2004).

We also cannot turn a blind eye to those States that continue to actively sponsor terrorism, such as Iran and Syria. Today, Iran serves as the world's central banker, primary sponsor and chief trainer of terrorists.

The flow of advanced weapons to terrorists in our region is growing in scope and scale. Those weapons contribute to instability and fuel violent attacks on civilians. As we sit here today, rockets fired by terrorists in the Gaza Strip continue to rain down on

the people of southern Israel. Yet, the Security Council has not uttered a single word of condemnation against those continuous and brutal acts of terrorism. This silence speaks volumes. The victims of terror are part and parcel of any debate on counter-terrorism. Their voices must be heard. Elie Wiesel once wrote,

> "Even when faced with the murderous madness of criminals, and in the presence of the silent agony of their victims, it is incumbent upon us to choose between escape and solidarity, shame and honour."

There is no grey area. Turning a blind eye to terrorists is to choose terrorism. Promoting or overlooking incitement is to choose to educate the next generation of terrorists. No declarations or statements to the contrary can deny these simple truths. The time has come for all responsible members of the international community to speak the complete, unvarnished and sometimes difficult truths about those who support terrorism. It is time for all States to join together and take effective action. The challenges before us are clear. The opportunities to work together are apparent.

We urge all Member States to set aside their differences in this fight, to renounce short-term and short-sighted policies in favour of international cooperation, and to realize that complacency is not an option in this struggle. If we truly join forces, the international community can decisively stem the rising tide of terrorism and build a brighter future for our children.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

Mr. Núñez Mosquera (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Chairs of the three Committees for the information provided. Our country, as all know, strictly fulfils the provisions of resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), and will continue to do so.

Cuba reiterates its firm commitment to fighting terrorism and its deepest rejection and condemnation of all terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations by whomsoever committed against whomsoever, wherever they are committed, and whatever their motivations, including those acts committed by States that may be directly or indirectly involved.

State terrorism is also one of the most abominable forms of terrorism. The measures to eliminate international terrorism must be based on strict respect for the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and international humanitarian law.

Cuba fully supports the position of the Non-Aligned Movement, opposing the unilateral formulation of lists that accuse States of supposed support for terrorism, since such lists are incompatible with international law and resolutions of the United Nations. Despite Cuba's proven and transparent record in fighting terrorism, the Government of the United States persists in its arbitrary decision to include my country in a list of States that sponsor international terrorism in an ever more pathetic annual ritual, given that the impossibility, since these claims are false, to objectively substantiate the stigma that they attempt to impose on us. If it were not for the enormous cost of sanctions added to the blockade that this unfair designation imposes on the Cuban people and the dangers that this decision entails, it would simply be a mockery of the international community and nothing more than a typical effort to conceal the lack of seriousness and the political nature of all decisions taken by the United States in relation to Cuba.

Cuba vigorously rejects the inclusion of our country on this unilateral and spurious list, which is politically motivated and corrupt in its conception, having been prepared by the United States Department of State. Like other lists drawn up without authority by an international organization, it is in complete violation of international law. The shameful inclusion of a State like Cuba, which fights terrorism, further discredits this unilateral mechanism and compromises the credibility of the United States in its fight against this scourge.

Since resolution 1540 (2004) was adopted, Cuba itself has undertaken practical measures to guarantee its full application. Our country does not possess and has no intention of possessing weapons of mass destruction. The possession of such weapons will never be part of our national defence strategy and never has been. On the contrary, we support the urgent prohibition and total elimination of these weapons worldwide. Our national nuclear, chemical and biological programmes have always been for strictly peaceful means and have been used to the benefit of the well-being of the Cuban people.

In fulfilment of the provisions of resolution 1267 (1999), the competent Cuban authorities are regularly informed of the updates to the consolidated list drawn up by the Committee established pursuant to the resolution. Cuba has maintained broad and sustained cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee. We have given detailed and transparent reports on seven occasions of the measures adopted by our country to ensure the prevention of and the fight against terrorism, as stipulated in resolution 1373 (2001).

For years now, our country has presented the Security Council with detailed information regarding terrorist actions against Cuba. Unfortunately, to date our denunciations have not received a concrete response. Terrorism against Cuba has taken the lives or seriously hurt thousands of our fellow countrymen and countrywomen. For six years now, Luis Posada Carriles, a self-confessed murderer, has enjoyed the official protection of the Government of the United States of America, and from North American territory announces future crimes with complete impunity.

Nevertheless, for trying to prevent terrorist attacks and share information with the Government of the United States, five Cuban anti-terrorist compatriots were unjustly convicted and are serving cruel prison sentences in the United States; one of them is not allowed to return home, under the absurd excuse of a parole arrangement. It is high time that we end this two-faced morality and double standards in this important matter. Terrorism must be rejected under all circumstances. Closer cooperation among States is needed in order to fight against this scourge.

Finally, we reiterate the firm, tireless readiness of the Government and the people of Cuba to cooperate in multilateral efforts to put an end to all terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Switzerland.

Mr. Seger (Switzerland): I have the honour of addressing the Security Council on behalf of the informal group of like-minded countries, which have taken a specific interest in strengthening fair and clear procedures for targeted sanctions and in making United Nations sanctions regimes more effective. This group is comprised of Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and my own country, Switzerland.

Let me join others in thanking the Chairs of the three Committees for their informative briefings. As the focus of our group lies in targeted sanctions and fair and clear procedures, my remarks will concentrate on the sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities. In this regard, I should underline that our group supports and fully recognizes that targeted sanctions are a useful and necessary tool for effectively combating international terrorism. Our position on the issue of sanctions reform is guided by the aim of strengthening the Al-Qaida sanctions regime.

Let me begin by welcoming the adoption of resolution 1989 (2011) in June. The resolution enhances due process for listing and de-listing procedures alike. The like-minded group can only stress the significance of these latest reforms towards granting an independent and effective remedy to anyone who believes himself or herself to be wrongly labelled as being associated with Al-Qaida.

Read against the background of past improvements to the 1267 regime — notably the establishment of the focal point, the introduction of narrative summaries, the comprehensive review undertaken and, of course, the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson itself — the new amendments have contributed considerably to the overall fairness and effectiveness of the Al-Qaida sanctions system.

Likewise, the like-minded group takes this opportunity to commend the Ombudsperson, Judge Kimberly Prost, for the excellent quality of her work since she took office in the summer of 2010. There is now a strong built-in presumption, which is widely shared, that the Ombudsperson's presentations are based on in-depth analysis, well founded and well received by the Committee when deciding de-listing requests presented by her Office. The result is an Ombudsperson who is more likely to gain access to case-relevant information, and a designating State that is more likely to be able to implement what its own national or regional courts require it to do.

Now that these reforms have been put into place, there is a strong need for all actors involved to cooperate and ensure that they deliver the envisaged

results. The Ombudsperson cannot be successful without the support of Member States. Cooperation with the Office of the Ombudsperson, including the provision of confidential information in individual cases, will therefore be key. Legal and practical ways of allowing the Ombudsperson's access to all relevant information regarding a particular listing should be actively explored, such as through the conclusion of confidentiality agreements or arrangements. Among the like-minded countries, Switzerland, Belgium and Costa Rica already have arrangements in place with the Office of the Ombudsperson. They stand ready to answer — on a bilateral basis — any question the wider membership might have in that respect.

Of equal importance is the provision of adequate resources to the Ombudsperson. We therefore call upon all Member States to look favourably upon the budgetary requests of the Office of the Ombudsperson for additional staff and additional resources so as to enable her to continue to process the increasing number of petitions fully, effectively and in a timely manner. Adequate resources are essential if the Ombudsperson is to be able to fulfil her reinforced mandate in full accordance with fundamental requirements of the rule of law, such as the translation of relevant documents into a language familiar to the petitioner.

Finally, we note that the effectiveness of the Al-Qaida sanctions regime will also be judged by the number of appeals to the Security Council. The Council retains the authority to oppose a de-listing recommendation under its ordinary decision-making rules. We appeal to the members of the Sanctions Committee that such appeals, if any, will not be made unless there are exceptionally compelling and comprehensible reasons. The perception of fairer and clearer procedures, as obtained through resolution 1989 (2011), could be compromised if appeals were to become a common and successful routine.

Despite all of the improvements, the 1267 sanctions regime continues to be perceived as failing to conform to due process standards. National parliaments, as well as national and regional courts, tend to scrutinize the regime critically. Examples of recent challenges to the implementation of United Nations sanctions decisions in Europe include the *Kadi* decision of the General Court of the European Union of September 2010, which is still under appeal, and the case of *Nada v. Switzerland*, which is pending before the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights.

On the basis of the aforementioned, the group of like-minded States encourages the Security Council to proactively continue its efforts to improve fair and clear procedures. We recall our recommendations in our letter of April this year, including the idea of introducing a sunset clause for all listings.

In that context, the group takes note of the decision of the Security Council to establish a separate, country-specific sanctions regime for those constituting a threat to peace, security and stability in Afghanistan, in particular the Taliban and associates. We note further that some of the institutional features designed to increase the fairness of procedures in the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, including the authority of the Ombudsperson, do not apply to the new regime pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011).

We take note of the different procedures in different sanction regimes. The like-minded countries reaffirm their strong view that the question of fair and clear procedures is relevant to all Sanctions Committees, and that any improvement in the fairness of procedures will contribute not only to the observance of human rights but also to the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Security Council's action.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of New Zealand.

Ms. Cavanagh (New Zealand): Events this year have focused attention on our collective progress over the past decade in combating international terrorism and stimulated frank assessments of the challenges still to be faced.

Since 2001, we have had success in disrupting and dismantling international terrorist networks, and in establishing robust legal, normative and institutional frameworks at the national and global levels. But the recent attack on United Nations facilities in Abuja, Nigeria, showed the threat terrorism still poses to the values of this Organization and to the interests of all Member States.

Al-Qaida has been weakened globally, but its affiliates still pose significant threats in several regions. Moreover, terrorist networks have proved adaptable and resilient, shifting tactics, adopting new technologies and identifying new resources and methods of financing to maintain their operations. All

of this makes effective international cooperation to counter-terrorism as important now as ever.

The Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) and their associated work programmes play vital roles in combating international terrorism. The past year has seen significant developments in the work of all three Committees. New Zealand hopes that the decision in June to separate the 1267 Committee's consolidated list into separate designations for the Taliban and Al-Qaida will provide the new Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) with flexibility to ensure that de-listing decisions are consistent with realities on the ground and can complement Afghanistan's national reconciliation efforts.

Also important were changes to the de-listing procedures of the 1267 and 1989 Committees, including a significant strengthening of the Ombudsperson's role. They make it all the more important for the Ombudsperson to be sufficiently resourced to carry out this enhanced role and for Member States provide her their full support, including through the provision of relevant information.

New Zealand hopes that the 10-year extension in April of the 1540 Committee's mandate will facilitate a longer-term approach to supporting national implementation. We welcome the Committee's increased emphasis on targeted technical assistance and its efforts to coordinate this with assistance for other relevant national capacity-building priorities. That approach is particularly important for small States with limited institutional capacities.

Capacity-building is integral to the partnership underpinning international counter-terrorism cooperation. New Zealand participates in a wide-ranging programme of capacity-building focused on supporting partners in the Pacific and South and South-East Asia.

The targeted approach taken by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) in providing technical assistance has helped many States to strengthen their counter-terrorism frameworks. New Zealand has partnered with CTED on several such initiatives, supporting workshops in the Pacific and South-East Asia — including one held in Auckland earlier this month — on cash couriers and preventing terrorist abuse of the non-profit sector. We also helped fund the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Terrorism Prevention Branch workshops on law enforcement cooperation.

We also support the Counter-Terrorism Committee's emphasis on the role of regional cooperation. A recent table-top exercise for South-East Asian practitioners to support implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism was one of a number of practically-focused initiatives with regional partners that we have supported in the past few years.

In May, we hosted the seventh annual meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum working group on counter-terrorism. As the only dedicated regional counter-terrorism forum, the working group provides important opportunities to coordinate activities and share best practice. This year, it was held back-to-back with the Pacific's second regional counter-terrorism exercise, Ready Pasifika II.

Two other recent developments have potential consequences for all three Committees. New Zealand welcomes Saudi Arabia's generosity in funding a United Nations centre for counter-terrorism to support international counter-terrorism cooperation. Once established and fully integrated into the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture, it promises to further strengthen United Nations counter-terrorism capacities in key areas.

New Zealand is also a founding member of the Global Counterterrorism Forum launched in September. The Forum should further boost international counter-terrorism capacity-building efforts, complementing work under way within United Nations frameworks, particularly CTED. We are pleased that Indonesia and Australia will chair a Global Counterterrorism Forum South-East Asia working group, ensuring that the Forum has a truly global focus.

We can look back over the past decade with a degree of satisfaction at what has been achieved and, more importantly, what has been prevented. But our work is far from complete, and with considerable challenges ahead, New Zealand is committed to working with the Council, its Committees and all Member States to strengthen our collective resilience and to build the capacities of all States to prevent, disrupt and bring to justice perpetrators of terrorist acts.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Ioannis Vrailas, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Vrailas: The candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

I would like to thank you, Sir, for the opportunity to be present here today at this timely and important briefing on issues of crucial significance to the European Union (EU) and its member States. I also thank the Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) for their comprehensive and informative briefings.

Terrorism remains a serious threat to the international community. The attack on the United Nations Office in Abuja in August took the lives of some of our United Nations colleagues who — as the Secretary-General rightly pointed out in his reaction — were those who devote their lives to helping others.

The EU has a long-standing record of support for a wide range of counter-terrorism undertakings and will continue to uphold that record. Last week, Ms. Mara Marinaki, Managing Director for Global and Multilateral Issues in the European External Action Service, took part in a number of meetings in New York with relevant United Nations entities in order to foster our cooperation and set up the way ahead for joint EU-United Nations efforts to better tackle the challenge of terrorism.

The EU stands firm on the position that the Al-Qaida sanctions regime continues to play an important role and is proving its effectiveness. We fully believe in the importance of an effective sanctions regime to disrupting the financial flows financing terrorist acts. We express our support for all improvements of the United Nations system aimed at reassuring that the procedures for designating individuals are fully compliant with fundamental rights. In order to improve transparency and visibility, narrative summaries of reasons for listing represent a particularly appropriate tool.

We supported the Security Council's decision of 17 June to create a new sanctions regime for Afghanistan, while maintaining and improving the existing 1267/1989 counter-terrorism regime focused on Al-Qaida. Therefore, we welcome the adoption of the resolution 1988 (2011) creating a new sanctions regime targeted at the Afghan insurgency, and of resolution 1989 (2011), adopted on 17 June, amending the existing 1267 sanctions regime to target individuals and entities associated with Al-Qaida alone. We especially commend the work of the Office of the Ombudsperson, which provides individuals, groups, undertakings and entities with an opportunity to have their listings reviewed in an independent and impartial manner.

Regarding resolution 1989 (2011), we particularly welcome the fact that the Ombudsperson now has the possibility to present recommendations with a view to de-listing concerned individuals and entities to the Committee. We also welcome the new and improved form of interaction between the Ombudsperson and the Committee. This enhanced procedure will further improve the effectiveness of the Al-Qaida sanctions regime. Moreover, resolution 1989 (2011) will also provide greater transparency in the process being followed by the Committee, including the possibility of bringing a particular case to the attention of the Security Council upon request of any Committee member.

In this regard, access to relevant information is key to the Ombudsperson's ability to carry out her mandate. In particular, we note with satisfaction the first arrangements between the Office of the Ombudsperson and member States for access to confidential and classified information, which is often an indispensable precondition for a comprehensive analysis of the case. The way the Ombudsman Office performs its duties will be meaningful from the due process perspective regarding the implementation of resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) in international, regional and national Courts.

Regarding resolution 1373 (2001), we congratulate the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) on the successful special event commemorating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the resolution, and we note with interest the establishment of the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism. Moreover, the EU fully supports the focus on deliverance of counter-terrorism capacity-building to the counter-terrorism

efforts of countries. The EU looks forward to receiving the final report of this meeting. The European Union has developed specific instruments to support countries in their counter-terrorism efforts, and cooperates closely with the United Nations on this work.

The EU fully appreciates the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and its Executive Director, Mike Smith. The EU has long-standing, excellent cooperation with CTED. The EU welcomes the updated global survey of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). The European Union and its member States implement the various provisions of resolution 1373 (2001), in particular in the EU legal framework concerning border control, migration, asylum, police and judicial cooperation. The EU counter-terrorism strategy of 2005 provides the overall approach regarding the prevention of and fight against terrorism. In terms of thematic priorities, the EU supports the implementation of the specific recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on terrorist financing. In terms of geographical focus, the EU strategy for the Sahel, which combines security and development actions, fosters a global approach to countering terrorism.

The EU is a key provider of counter-terrorism capacity-building to many countries, especially in the areas of the rule of law, criminal justice, law enforcement, countering violent extremism and terrorist financing. The EU fully supports the United Nations and its Member States in their efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and the risk that non-State actors, in particular terrorists, could gain access to such weapons continue to be a major threat to international peace and security that calls for a global approach, in addition to actions at the national and regional levels. We therefore commend the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). We also welcome the adoption of resolution 1977 (2011).

Only last month, we signed a joint EU-United States declaration aimed at further supporting the implementation of resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011). The declaration confirms our focus on supporting countries in developing legislation related to weapons of mass destruction materials control, and developing relevant training programmes. The declaration also highlights the need for reinforcement measures for domestic visits to States by the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts in order to gather and exchange information on best practices and lessons learned for implementing the resolution.

The EU is also working on initiatives in support of resolutions 1540 and 1977 (2011), with special focus on country visits and providing long-term solutions to challenges on the ground. These initiatives, together with the EU's capacity-building — especially concerning the establishment of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear centres of excellence throughout the world, including the Maghreb, the Middle East, the Caucasus, and soon in Central Asia and South-East Asia — are mutually reinforcing measures that provide a tangible contribution to the field of counter-terrorism.

Let me take this opportunity to once again express our gratitude for the whole spectrum of vitally important tasks undertaken by the Security Council committees, aimed at tackling the threat of terrorism. The European Union and its member States stand firm in their support for all of these actions, and remain committed to enhancing cooperation with the United Nations in this regard.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): We listened with great interest to the briefings given to the Council by the Chairs of the three subsidiary Committees at this meeting. We thank them for their presentations.

Syria has never stopped reaffirming its condemnation of terrorism, given that it is a criminal, aggressive and unjust act that takes aim at the lives of innocent people and at their property. Syria has called for action at all levels to confront international terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in United Nations Charter and in international law.

Syria reasserts that terrorism poses an ongoing threat to international peace and security. We also reiterate our commitment to relevant international resolutions on combating terrorism. Syria is convinced of the central role that the General Assembly must play in fighting terrorism internationally and of the need to reach international consensus in that regard.

Syria believes that the Security Council Committees on counter-terrorism can also contribute to the coordination of international efforts to fight terrorism by using transparent, fair and impartial mechanisms. The objectives of concerted international actions to address the phenomenon of terrorism will not be achieved as long as we remain silent on one of the most serious forms of terrorism — State terrorism. The clearest example of that is obviously seen in the crimes perpetrated daily by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since the occupation of the Arab territories.

The most recent act of aggression against Gaza occurred in international waters and targeted the peace flotilla that was attempting to deliver humanitarian assistance to a people under siege and suffering from daily acts of violence and terrorism, not to mention the killing of key national Palestinian figures in third countries and nuclear terrorism in the countries of the region.

Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan have also been victims of practices that have been classified and documented as war crimes, which provides a crystal-clear example of State terrorism that violates international law, resolutions of international legitimacy and human rights instruments.

In the light of its suffering as a result of the terrorist acts carried out in its territory, and in the conviction that the United Nations plays a central role in combating international terrorism, Syria is cooperating fully with the three Committees established by the Council in resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004). Syria has established national joint commissions to ensure that the provisions of those resolutions are optimally implemented.

References to the dangers of terrorism and the need to address them are not based on theories alone. My country continues to suffer from that scourge. Armed groups are committing heinous terrorist acts against civilians, the military and intellectuals. They are burning and destroying both public and private facilities, because they are prompted to do so and are financed and protected by foreign sources in an effort to undermine Syria's domestic security and stability, as well as to implement agendas that serve neither domestic peace nor regional stability.

Last Saturday, upon instructions from my Government, I sent letters to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General and the co-Chairs of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. Those letters contain detailed information on the trafficking across the Syrian international border of weapons destined for terrorists and on operations that would facilitate communication through the use of sophisticated devices, with support from external parties.

Syria was among the first signatories to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), in 1968. Syria opposes the possession of nuclear weapons by any State or party. Syria also signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in 1992. It is well known to all that Israel is the only State in the Middle East that possesses a significant nuclear arsenal and that refuses to accede to the NPT or to submit any of its nuclear facilities to any monitoring authorities associated with the International Atomic Energy Agency. That was clearly evident at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, held in New York.

The accumulation of those negative and dangerous points in terms of Israel's refusal to accede to the NPT is an indication of its non-compliance with resolution 1540 (2004), the IAEA and the efforts of the Committees combating the proliferation of nuclear weapons. I should now like to refer to a recent English-language article in the Israeli press on that subject, which shows very clearly to what extent Israel is not adhering to any moral, political or legal standards, including with respect to the States that are protecting it.

(*spoke in English*)

Speaking during an interview that was published in Jerusalem on Friday, Professor Martin van Creveld said that Israel could avenge the Holocaust by annihilating millions of Germans and other Europeans, and that it had the capability of hitting most European capitals with nuclear weapons. "We possess several hundred atomic warheads and rockets, and could launch them at targets in all directions, perhaps even at Rome". He added, "Most European capitals are within range of our air force". Van Creveld, a professor of military history at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, has pointed out that collective deportation was Israel's only meaningful strategy to get rid of the Palestinian people.

Van Creveld said that he was sure that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon wanted to deport the Palestinians. He said, "I think it is quite possible that he wants to do that. He knows that nothing else we do will succeed".

Asked if he was worried about Israel becoming a rogue State if it carried out a genocidal deportation against Palestinians, van Creveld quoted former Israeli Minister of Defence Moshe Dayan, who said that Israel must be like a mad dog — too dangerous to bother. Van Creveld argued that Israel would not care much about becoming a rogue State. Then he said, "our armed forces are not the thirtieth strongest in the world, but rather the second or third; we have the capability to take the world down with us". It is a long article. I will not go through it all.

My last comment pertains to the military exercises that Israel is undertaking right now through the air space of some European countries. Those are military exercises being conducted publicly. Yet, there has been no statement, no condemnation, no denunciation from anyone. The aim of those military exercises is to train Israeli pilots to conduct aggression against other countries, sovereign States Members of the Organization. I will not name the country targeted, because everyone knows about whom I am talking.

The President: The representative of Israel has asked to make a further statement. I invite her to take a seat at the Council table and I now give her the floor.

Ms. Schonmann (Israel): The previous speaker is deaf to the cries of freedom that continue to come from the Syrian people in the streets, in broad daylight and even as we speak. Listening to him just now brings to mind George Orwell's *1984*, where war is peace, freedom is slavery, and ignorance is strength.

That Syria continues to gun down and terrorize its own people is well known and well documented. That Syria is one of the world's primary sanctuaries for terrorist organizations is no secret either. It is common knowledge that it continues to support, finance and provide safe haven for terrorist organizations, and that Damascus is the global headquarters of numerous terrorist organizations.

While in Israel there is an open and vibrant press, freedom of speech and a pluralist democratic society, the Syrian people continue to be oppressed, only dreaming of living in a democracy. Indeed, whenever a Syrian representative speaks about terrorism, we should all appreciate the unique opportunity to gain some insight into the mind of a State sponsor of terrorism.

The President: The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic has asked to make a further statement. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and I now give him the floor.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syria) (*spoke in Arabic*): I apologize for asking for the floor once more.

General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) considers occupation as the worst form of the crime of aggression. The content of that resolution therefore provides the optimal response to what was just said by the representative of the Israeli occupation of the Arab-occupied territories.

Israeli State terrorism is distinguished in this international Organization because it is documented. It began with the assassination of the representatives of the United Nations, starting with Count Bernardotte, in 1948, and continued with the terrorist political crimes committed against Palestinian leaders, the assassination of children at Qana, in southern Lebanon, on two occasions, and the assassination of Palestinian and Arab leaders outside Palestine — and we all know what they did in Dubai and whom they killed there. The documentation of Israeli State terrorism therefore really needs an encyclopedia, a specialized one that would focus attention on Israeli war crimes and Israeli crimes against humanity perpetrated by every Government of Israel since its establishment in Palestine, in 1948. The paradox here is that those who preach and talk about their pain as a result of the Nazi Holocaust, which is not of Arab making, as all members know, blatantly and openly say that they want the Palestinian people to taste the bitterness of a new holocaust, but this time it is one of Israeli making.

We are not the only ones who say that Israel is a State that commits war crimes and crimes of extermination. There are prominent western officials who agree with us, including some senior officials of the United Nations, many of whom have testified before the Council. President Jimmy Carter was not alone in saying that Israel was exercising apartheid against the Palestinians; Bishop Desmond Tutu and Special Rapporteurs Ian Sinclair, John Dugard and Richard Falk also have said it. Israel remains the only State in the world that adopts policies of targeted

killing and allocates financial resources in its national budget for them — something that is condemned all over the world. That budget is approved publicly by the Israeli Knesset. I respect the fact that it is late, and I will stop there.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 7.40 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6659

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6659th meeting

Tuesday, 15 November 2011, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Moraes Cabral	(Portugal)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Laher
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Tatham
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Letter dated 3 November 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/682)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

11-59360 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Letter dated 3 November 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/682)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Croatia and Serbia to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/682, containing a letter dated 3 November 2011 from the Secretary-General, transmitting the fortieth report of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I now give the floor to Mr. Inzko.

Mr. Inzko (*spoke in French*): I appreciate this opportunity to introduce my sixth report as High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina — the fortieth report of the High Representative (see S/2011/682). My briefing today is my first statement as High Representative since my duties as European Union Special Representative were assumed by the new Head of the European Union Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Peter Sørensen. We are working together in close and even friendly relations. through that collaboration, I expect us to demonstrate the international community's unity and strong support for Bosnia and Herzegovina as it pursues its aspirations to Euro-Atlantic integration, while fully ensuring that the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina — the Dayton-Paris Peace Accords — are integrally respected and implemented, and that internal reforms to implement those agreements is not endangered.

(*spoke in English*)

When I spoke to the Council one year ago (see S/PV.6421), I noted with reserved optimism that, in spite of all the difficulties that Bosnia and Herzegovina was facing, the previous year had brought a number of positive developments, especially in the context of regional cooperation and reconciliation and visa-free travel to the European Union (EU). I would note that Serbian President Boris Tadić and Croatian President Ivo Josipović have continued their policies of positive engagement, and that the regional situation remains better than at any other point since the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Since my last report (S/2011/283), however, Bosnia and Herzegovina itself has continued to see political stagnation and some backsliding. When I spoke to the Council in May (see S/PV.6529), I was forced to submit a special report that detailed serious violations of the Dayton Agreement by one of Bosnia and Herzegovina's two entities. Sadly, since that time and in spite of the good will of the international community, the challenges to the Dayton Agreement have continued. One of the basic reasons for those challenges lies at the core of Bosnia and Herzegovina's political culture, in which politicians show little willingness to compromise, avoiding dialogue on crucial issues and regularly misusing the system.

More than 12 months after the general elections, the State-level Council of Ministers has yet to be formed and many State institutions are under serious political, institutional and economic pressure, with a clear impact on their efficiency and functionality. A State-level budget for 2011 has yet to be passed, and the State-level institutions are struggling under temporary financing. The prospect of a budget being adopted soon for 2011, or for 2012, appears distant. The European Union and the Euro-Atlantic integration processes effectively remain blocked due to the continued adherence to narrow ethno-nationalist policies. Not surprisingly, the economy continues to suffer.

In that context, international credit-rating agencies downgraded the country's outlook, not for economic reasons but specifically citing the negative political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In its

annual progress report on Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Commission also noted the country's political problems.

During the reporting period, Republika Srpska continued its legal and political actions and sharp rhetoric that have challenged Bosnia and Herzegovina's State-level institutions, competencies and laws, and my authority under the Dayton Agreement, as well as relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

Although the 13 April adoption by the Republika Srpska National Assembly of a referendum decision was repealed on 1 June, the controversial conclusions of the same date continue to influence Republika Srpska policies in regard to both the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and my Office and mandate. I should point out that the Republika Srpska repealed its referendum decision only after the direct, personal intervention of Lady Catherine Ashton, the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Lady Ashton for her efforts, which enabled me to avoid the use of my executive mandate, which at this point is a process that I am keen to refrain from using whenever it is possible to resolve difficulties by other means.

In that regard and in keeping with the principle of local political ownership, during the reporting period I maintained the long-standing policy of refraining from the use of my executive mandate unless absolutely necessary, despite the ongoing political difficulties. In fact, the only case in the past six months in which I used my executive authorities was in order to lift sanctions imposed by my predecessors in connection with non-cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). I did this following the capture and transfer to The Hague of Ratko Mladić, the last ICTY fugitive accused of crimes connected to the Bosnian war. I therefore lifted the ban, which was my only use of my executive powers over the past six months.

Unfortunately, the arrest of Mladić was not accompanied by a decline in the use of inflammatory nationalistic rhetoric, including further statements by officials of the Republika Srpska in support of State dissolution and chauvinistic comments directed against other ethnic groups. In this regard, I would like to express my deep concern about recent public statements from the Republika Srpska that challenge the statehood of Bosnia and Herzegovina by characterizing it as a "state union" — "*drzavna zajednica*" — ignoring the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with Slovenia and Croatia, was admitted as a Member State to the United Nations on 22 May 1992, through a direct and unanimous recommendation of the Security Council on 18 May of that year. These statements, which undermine the constitutional arrangements provided for under the Dayton Peace Agreement, need to be taken seriously, especially in light of other actions directly challenging the Agreement, as set out in my current and previous reports.

Some Federation officials and politicians have also used unwelcome rhetoric, as detailed in my report. The two leading Croat parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to question the legality and legitimacy of the incumbent Federation Government. Some Bosniak political leaders have escalated their rhetoric in response to statements from the Republika Srpska leadership and warned of possible conflict were there an attempt to divide the country. I have long warned about the serious damage this rhetoric is doing, and I take this opportunity to again call on Bosnia and Herzegovina's leaders to contribute to fostering reconciliation, dialogue and coexistence, rather than spreading chauvinism, fear and mistrust.

Given the aforementioned negative trends and actions, it is not surprising that there has not been significant movement on the EU agenda or on NATO membership. Nor has there been any movement towards fulfilling the five objectives and two conditions necessary for the closure of my Office.

I am also deeply concerned about the situation with respect to the rule of law, as Republika Srpska regularly questions the very competences of the State-level judicial institutions, including the jurisdiction and role of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Constitutional Court itself. The authorities have also continued to undermine and question other key State-level institutions in the country. It is difficult to avoid a perception that the intention is to portray institutions as dysfunctional and therefore not needed at the State level.

This is the wrong approach. Bosnia and Herzegovina and the entities will turn a corner

decisively only when political leaders understand that the entities and State will be strong only when both levels of Government are strong; both will go from strength to strength only when they work together and the State is given the support it needs to be effective.

Difficulties have also arisen in the Federation, and 16 years after the Peace Agreement was signed there continues to be a need for my Office to step in to address large gaps in the country's legal system that create significant legal and political problems for the country. I had to intervene in July in the Central Bosnia Canton to address an attempt to ignore the Constitution and form a Government that could have raised tensions to an unacceptable level. Due to my intervention — not using my Bonn powers but in the form of a letter — the local parties have been able to resolve the situation in line with the constitution, and pave the way for the formation of Governments in other cantons and possibly even at the State level.

Given what I continue to see, there is still a clear need for my Office to remain in place in order to fill such legal gaps and maintain stability. This need will continue until such time as Bosnia and Herzegovina is self-sustainable and firmly and irreversibly on the path towards EU and NATO integration. Something similar to this approach played out in my own country, Austria, after its liberation by American, Russian, French and British soldiers in 1945. The allied forces stayed until they were sure there would be no revival of Nazism and that democracy was firmly rooted in the country.

My core mandate is to oversee the Dayton Peace Agreement. The Dayton Agreement is at its heart a peace treaty, and every day we see signs that, should it unravel, serious consequences could emerge not only for Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also for the region and the broader international community. Given the continued negative trends and political instability, it is essential that the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a Chapter VII executive mandate, remain in place and continue to assist the Office of the High Representative and other international organizations to fulfil their respective mandates.

While we must now focus on the immediate difficulties, I believe that it is also important to take a critical look at what we need to do to secure a functional and viable country in the long term. It is clear that we need to support the ownership principle in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this regard, allow me to say a few words on how I think the international community should approach Bosnia and Herzegovina in the future.

We all agree that the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina is within the European Union and Euro-Atlantic institutions. The EU and NATO therefore have an important role to play in Bosnia and Herzegovina in assisting the country to fulfil the requirements for its aspirations to membership of both organizations. It is important that Bosnia and Herzegovina remain on the international community's agenda until the job is complete. There are some who believe that it is time now to leave Bosnia and Herzegovina on its own; some talk about international fatigue in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I do not share this view, and believe that such moves would open the door to those who would attempt to weaken and eventually divide the State, and could lead to renewed disorder.

The international community has achieved tremendous results in Bosnia and Herzegovina over the past 15 years. However, it is clear from the current political situation that we have not yet achieved a lasting and sustainable political settlement that would ensure a durable prospect for peace. Our continued commitment to and focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina is the way to get to the objective that we all want to reach — a Bosnia and Herzegovina that is stable, safe and solving its problems institutionally as it moves towards full Euro-Atlantic integration. I am truly convinced that this can become a reality if we remain committed to the cause and if we finally see a fundamental change in the way politics are conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with dialogue and healthy compromise becoming the rule rather than the exception.

In spite of the challenges Bosnia and Herzegovina faces today, I would like to congratulate the country on its tenure as a member of this body and for the excellent job it has done. Security Council membership has given Bosnia and Herzegovina the opportunity to make new friends around the world and gain the respect of many countries, and should be counted as a significant foreign policy success. In my personal opinion, it is the country's biggest foreign policy success since Dayton.

I would also like to thank personally Ambassador Ivan Barbalić for his dedicated work, his commitment, his professionalism and his idealism.

As we look to the future, I wish to assure the Council that I am fully committed to carrying out my mandate to the letter and ensuring that the Peace Agreement is fully respected. The way forward is not to go backwards. I am also committed to assisting Peter Sørensen in his duties as European Union Special Representative, in every way possible to advance the EU agenda. I look to the Security Council and to the Peace Implementation Council to support me fully in doing my job, in keeping with the mandate the Council has given me, and in building on a successful peace effort in the country so that we may reach the point where peace, stability and the country's Euro-Atlantic future are irreversible beyond any shadow of a doubt.

Let us work together, the entire international community, to scale the last remaining metres of the mountain to secure the peace and to secure Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU future. Together, we can do it. Together, we will succeed.

The President: I thank Mr. Inzko for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Barbalić (Bosnia and Herzegovina): At the outset, I would like to welcome Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina. As indicated in his report (S/2011/682, annex), the situation in the country is still complex. However, a number of positive achievements must also be noted.

Although we have not achieved all that was planned with regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina's integration into European Union (EU), strong commitment, support and dedication to that aim exists, not only among the political leadership but also among the wider population of the country. We are dedicated to fulfilling remaining conditions to receive candidate status for European Union membership as early as possible.

Furthermore, we welcome the decision of the European Union to appoint Mr. Peter Sørensen as its Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina. That decision represents a welcome consolidation of the European Union's presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which should result in better guidance of the reform process towards the country's accession to the European Union.

We welcome the decision of the High Representative to lift the sanctions against certain individuals from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Unfortunately, since the holding of elections on 3 October 2010, a new Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina has not yet been formed. However, we have established all of the country's other institutions, which are fulfilling their responsibilities.

Moreover, the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina has played an important role in advancing and promoting relations with neighbouring countries and strengthening regional cooperation. The Presidency has also met important challenges with regard to foreign policy, such as extending the mandate for Bosnia and Herzegovina armed forces in the International Security Assistance Force, as well as the decision to recognize the National Transitional Council of the Libyan Republic.

Regardless of the political difficulties, we have a secure and safe environment and a positive security situation. The overall security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been calm and stable for several years, as reflected in reports of the European Union Force and European Union Operation Althea, with which our armed forces have very good and productive cooperation. During the reporting period, law enforcement agencies in our country have had good cooperation with the European Union Police Mission, particularly in fighting organized crime and corruption, as well as in promoting accountability within police bodies.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has also had good cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, not only during the reporting period but for years. The State strategy for processing war crimes has contributed significantly to reconciliation in our country. Furthermore, a database on war crimes has been established, while categorization and determination as to the level — whether State or entity — at which identified war crimes cases shall be investigated and/or tried is under way. The prosecution of all those responsible in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a precondition not only for reconciliation, but for the peace and stability of our country and entire region.

The economic and social situation in the country is difficult. In our view, one of the main causes for such a situation is the world economic and financial

crisis. However, as indicated in the report, economic data for 2011 show some signs of improvement. Exports from Bosnia and Herzegovina have increased, while total industrial production rose by 7.7 per cent.

Bearing in mind the positive developments, we are convinced that there is a way to overcome the current situation, which is complex but not un-resolvable. We must build a constructive atmosphere that will foster positive political processes and a spirit of cooperation in resolving existing political issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the same time, we appreciate the valuable support of the international community in realizing our goals of Euro-Atlantic integration.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): Let me, at the outset, thank the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina for his comprehensive and informative briefing. We welcome the contribution to peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina that the High Representative and his Office have made in the course of the past 16 years.

Germany aligns itself with the statement to be made later by the observer of the European Union.

I would like to offer three brief observations on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

First, the security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to be calm and stable. The European Union Force (EUFOR) and European Union Operation Althea and the preceding military operations, namely, the Multinational Military Implementation Force and the Stabilization Force, have never had to intervene to restore peace. There are no indications of violent destabilization. Looking back less than two decades, when Bosnia and Herzegovina was on the brink of violent disintegration, this positive development deserves explicit recognition.

Against that backdrop, the European Union has decided to reconfigure EUFOR and Operation Althea. The mission's main focus will be directed towards providing capacity-building and training to Bosnia and Herzegovina's armed forces so that they can themselves maintain peace and stability.

However, the continuing political paralysis gives us a reason for concern. The recent EU progress report highlighted the stalemate in the reform process. The lack of a shared vision of the political leadership on the overall direction of the country is particularly worrisome.

That brings me to my second observation, namely, what the international community can do to support Bosnia and Herzegovina's resumption of the reform process, and thus also its return to the path towards Europe. It is up to Bosnia and Herzegovina's political leaders themselves to place the well-being of their county as a whole, and that of all of its citizens, at the top of their agendas, to form a new State-level Government as a matter of urgency and to tackle the outstanding reform projects. That should happen without further delay. Since Dayton, however, the international community has often ended up rectifying shortcomings in the domestic political processes. That cannot continue.

Given Bosnia and Herzegovina's history, close monitoring and far-reaching supervision by the international community have undoubtedly been necessary in the past. But that approach has not succeeded in creating incentives for local politicians to choose the route of compromise over advancing their nationalist agendas. In fact, the international community's approach at times serves as an impediment to political leaders' accountability to their electorates and to their assumption of ownership of the reform process.

We should not continue that way. Our focus should be on employing instruments that are better suited to initiate positive developments. Obsolete approaches should be discontinued. Decoupling the High Representative and the EU Special Representative and endowing the latter with a sound mandate was an important step. Further steps must follow. The European Union and Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU perspective should become the only game in town. That will include the continued reconfiguration of EUFOR and Operation Althea. In addition, we are of the view that the Office of the High Representative should be downsized and relocated abroad. Its staff levels should be commensurate with its remaining tasks.

Thirdly, in order to save the footprint of the Office of the High Representative in stabilizing Bosnia and Herzegovina, a sustainable and comprehensive answer to the question of immunity from legal proceedings for present and former staff of the Office has to be found. We intend to initiate a more thorough

discussion on the issue and to invite members to participate.

Let me conclude by emphasizing that we fully support the extension of the mandate of EUFOR and Operation Althea for another year, to be decided by the Security Council tomorrow. The mission provides an important contribution to the implementation of the Peace Agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It epitomizes our joint commitment to the peaceful, democratic and prosperous future of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its people. Such a Bosnia and Herzegovina, willing and able to conduct the EU accession process on its own strength, is the best guarantee for peaceful development in the region. Germany will continue to support all efforts to advance that goal.

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): I would like to begin by thanking Mr. Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, for his presence and for the report that he has just presented to the Council (S/2011/682, annex). I also take this opportunity to welcome the contribution of the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Council's work. Lastly, I associate myself with the statement to be made by the head of the delegation of the European Union a little later.

We are preparing to renew for a year the mandate of the activity of the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR) and Operation Althea in a political context weighted with uncertainty for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The security situation has been calm and stable for several years. That is attributable to the Bosnians themselves and their institutions. The arrest of Ratko Mladić, on 26 May, and of Goran Hadzić, on 20 July, and their immediate transfer to The Hague to be tried, constitute a positive development that ends a phase. All those sought by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia have now been arrested. I note that those arrests did not lead to any significant reaction on the ground.

However, for more than a year now, since the elections of October 2010, the country has been unable to form a new central Government. The outgoing Council of Ministers manages day-to-day matters and the budget operates on a temporary basis. That lack of Government is starting to have a significant negative impact on the economy and delays reforms towards the European path.

We therefore call on all Bosnian leaders to rapidly find the necessary compromises to establish a central Government and return to the reform process, beginning by calibrating the Constitution with the European Convention on Human Rights. Not to do so would mean Bosnia and Herzegovina turning its back on any European prospect, while all States of the region, one after the other, are taking this opportunity to prepare themselves, each at its own pace, to rejoin the European family one day.

That requires, first and foremost, the resumption of political dialogue and, on the other hand, an end to resorting to nationalist rhetoric, which today is still too common. It goes as far as denying the legitimacy of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a Member of the United Nations and the Security Council, or attacking the legality of the decisions of the High Representative. The latter means that the staff of the Office of the High Representative must enjoy sufficient immunity guarantees.

Apart from words, there are deeds. In that regard, France remains very concerned and warns Bosnian leaders against any initiative that contravenes the Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement and that would threaten the stability and integrity of the country. More generally, France again calls on the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina to return to dialogue, overcome their divisions and work towards consolidating a functioning State that upholds democratic principles. They must shoulder the primary responsibility. They were elected by Bosnian voters to that end.

In that context, I would also like to reaffirm my country's commitment to the independence, unity and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The High Representative, keeper of the peace accords on behalf of the international community, and his action and dialogue with Bosnian political representatives has our full support.

In that regard, I wish to particularly note the increased commitment of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Last spring, the European Union agreed an intensified approach for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and its presence on the ground has thus been strengthened. A new European Union Special Representative and delegate, Mr. Sørensen, assumed his duties a few months ago to help support the country

in its consolidation process and reforms. Mr. Sørensen has our full support. Furthermore, as the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the European Union decided on 10 October, EUFOR and Operation Althea will be restructured so as to again focus on training and advising the Bosnian armed forces, while maintaining the means to handle, if necessary, executive tasks in support of the work of the Bosnian authorities.

In order to improve the effectiveness of our action, we owe it to Bosnia and Herzegovina to consistently work to adapt our presence to the situation on the ground, be it the civilian or military presence of the European Union or the restructuring of the Office of the High Representative. France will fully participate in those efforts.

Mr. Moungara Moussotsi (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): We, too, would like to thank Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, for the comprehensive presentation of his report (S/2011/682, annex). We congratulate him and his team for their sustained efforts for lasting peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the context of implementing the Dayton Peace Agreement and the reforms so necessary to that country's integration within the European Union.

Gabon continues to support the unwavering commitment of the international community to the building of a Bosnia and Herzegovina founded on the rule of law and supported by stable and lasting institutions. The Dayton Agreement, whose implementation we strongly supported, is the basis for the entire political process in the country. We would like to make some remarks on security and political aspects.

With regard to security, we welcome the central role that the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR) continues to play in ensuring a stable environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its presence and numerous actions of the ground are very commendable despite the increasingly difficult political and security situation.

The political climate remains strongly affected by the inability of the main political parties to have a shared vision, making it possible to form a federal Government. We are concerned about that political stalemate, itself exacerbated by the nationalist rhetoric that hampers the normal functioning of institutions and prevents the federal State from assuming its governmental duties. Gabon deplores that situation and urges all parties to dialogue and to tolerance. We also call for constructive dialogue in favour of national reconciliation.

Gabon welcomes the cooperation between EUFOR and the other international organizations in implementing the United Nations mandate in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We urge the international community to maintain its commitment and to increase its assistance to the parties in order to achieve the five objectives and to meet the two conditions set by the Council for implementing peace, in accordance with the Dayton Agreement.

However, we remain convinced that the task of building a stable and prosperous Bosnia and Herzegovina is the primary responsibility of the Bosnians themselves. We therefore call upon them to strengthen their cooperation with the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, NATO, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and EUFOR, the renewal of whose mandate, once again, we support. Likewise, we would call upon the international community to intensify its support for the various parties in order to encourage them to implement the five objectives and the two conditions under to the Dayton Agreement.

Gabon will continue to support the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina to move towards unity and stability.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): I would also like to join others in thanking Mr. Valentin Inzko, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, for his very succinct briefing. We appreciate very much his contributions to the efforts to consolidate peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and, indeed, in the entire region.

Nigeria welcomes the positive developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the reporting period. Despite persistent political challenges, the Federation Government continues to function effectively. The dexterity with which General Ratko Mladic was arrested and subsequently transferred to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia is indeed an affirmation that with profound commitment residual issues can be resolved amicably.

We are, however, concerned by the continued attacks against Bosnia and Herzegovina's State-level

institutions, competencies and laws, as well as against the authority of the High Representative under the General Framework Agreement for Peace. Indeed, the sustained use of inflammatory nationalistic rhetoric not only fuels mistrust; it also constrains the implementation of the mandates of both the High Representative and the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board.

This prevalent political climate compels national leaders to exercise restraint and refrain from divisive and anti-Dayton rhetoric. They should demonstrate the political will that is so necessary to the promotion of conciliation, peace and development in the country and in the region. They should also commit to dialogue and show flexibility and compromise in resolving their many differences.

We are pleased with the momentum generated by the commencement of negotiations on Government formation and the adoption of the reforms that are necessary in order to fast track European Union and NATO membership. This momentum should spur further progress, not only on the implementation of constitutional reforms, but especially on outstanding items from the five objectives and two conditions necessary for the closure of the Office of the High Representative.

In the first six months of this year, economic indicators pointed to signs of progress. That, we believe, is a welcome development. To consolidate those gains, efforts must be made to address the stalemate in the 2011 budget, the growing unemployment rates and the decreasing foreign direct investment figures. The formation of a new Council of Ministers would undoubtedly boost confidence in the system.

While the main responsibility for making progress and achieving economic success in the country lies with the Government and the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, international support must remain steadfast and unrelenting. In that connection, we welcome the role of the European Union Force, which, in collaboration with the Bosnia and Herzegovina armed forces, is helping to foster security and stability. We also welcome the engagement of the European Union and NATO in the country.

I want to take this opportunity to reiterate my country's strong support and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We believe that it is only when all parties commit to and take practical steps towards the consolidation of peace that the challenges of nation-building in the country can be overcome. The supportive role of the Security Council in attaining lasting peace, security and stability in the country cannot be overemphasized. I believe that we must seize every moment to make that peace realizable.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): I thank the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Valentin Inzko, for his informative briefing and for the report before us (see S/2011/682). We welcome his work and his contribution to peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Brazil is firmly committed to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We support all efforts to strengthen the State at the national level while preserving the rights and prerogatives of all communal entities. Respect for the international and legal frameworks for the division of power is key to stability.

We welcome the positive developments during the reporting period. We encourage further efforts towards the consolidation of institutions. Priority should be given to reconciling different views and establishing a fully functioning State-level Government. We join previous speakers in expressing concern at statements and measures by the entities that question the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Challenges to the Dayton Peace Agreement and its institutional arrangements, as well as divisive rhetoric, should be avoided. We hope that the dialogue among the stakeholders can move decisively away from such statements and towards constructive suggestions on the way forward. In that regard, we call on all actors to respect the authority of and cooperate with the High Representative.

We are encouraged by the initiation of talks between party leaders on Government formation and reforms. We encourage further efforts to consolidate such talks and achieve inclusive participation. We are also pleased that the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has remained calm despite confrontations and rhetoric. We fully support the renewal of the Security Council's authorization for European Union Force.

A divided leadership in Bosnia and Herzegovina can only bring more difficulties to the well-being of its

populations. We encourage all parties to put differences aside and work towards a solution that strengthens Bosnia and Herzegovina. The country should continue to be supported in its pursuit of political stability and socio-economic development. We remain convinced that, with international support, the Bosnian people will succeed in reaching that goal.

In concluding, let me associate myself with the remarks made by Mr. Inzko on the very positive impact of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Security Council membership and on the quality of the work and the contribution being made by Ambassador Ivan Barbalić and his team to the work of the Council.

Mr. Osorio (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Colombia would like to thank the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Valentin Inzko, for the presentation of his report (see S/2011/682) and for the dedication and commitment that he shows to his mission. We would also like to join the voices of thanks for the serious and able contribution of Ambassador Ivan Barbalić and his delegation to the work of the Security Council.

Today, we are again considering the situation and future possibilities for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The report submitted to the Council (see S/2011/682) alerts us to important matters still to be dealt with, but it also points out that the people of the country, in the midst of great challenges, are enjoying stability and have great hopes for their future. The report states that,

> "In spite of tensions and controversy surrounding its formation, the Federation Government has functioned well during the reporting period." (S/2011/682, p. 4)

This is an achievement that we must protect in order to avoid situations that affect the country's security and that of the region. That is why Colombia feels that it is important to maintain that friendly spirit of unity, encouraging the parties involved to avoid using nationalistic and inflammatory rhetoric. We call for the strengthening of dialogue in order to solve differences and thus consolidate a process that includes many years of effort and commitment on the part of the international community. We hope that progress will continue to be made in strengthening Government institutions and administering justice. The United Nations can play a fundamental role in supporting national institutions. Like the European Union, it has a responsibility to collaborate in the reform process and to engage politically with that great region.

If local authorities and the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina show commitment, the resulting increased governability will lead to realizing the objectives of the Dayton Peace Agreement with regard to development and peace. Bosnia and Herzegovina has natural allies in Europe. That friendship also extends to other parts of the world. At the same time, conversely, Bosnia and Herzegovina has played and can play an important role in peacebuilding in other countries around the world, which in turn binds the international community to help them with their well-being and development. This is an apt occasion to welcome the appointment of the European Union Head of Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Peter Sørensen, and we express our willingness to cooperate with him to the best of our ability.

We would like to reiterate our support for the Dayton Agreement in the establishment of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the decisions arising from it. We stress the importance of the strict implementation of the Agreement in accordance with its annex 10 and of cooperating with the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Inzko, and we call on all actors to scrupulously fulfil their commitments as stipulated in the Agreement.

Meanwhile, if the objectives and conditions for closing the Office of the High Representative are not fulfilled — such as an agreement on the distribution of State property, the issue of the military property registry and the special status of the district of Brcko, among others — we believe that that Office should continue its work in implementing the Agreement, in fostering good inter-ethnic relations and in creating a political climate conducive to the better functioning of institutions that fully represent the various regions and give equal rights to all citizens. That is tied to the presence of the European Union-led peacekeeping force Althea, the continuation of whose mandate we deem necessary.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): We thank Mr. Inzko, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, for his briefing and for his report (S/2011/682, annex). We welcome the stability in the security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the regional cooperation with neighbouring States. We hope that the upcoming efforts will lead to the

formation of a representative Government that provides momentum to a number of necessary constitutional and economic reforms and that will positively affect the political climate and economic stability of the country. The establishment of a new Government will also hopefully have a positive effect on Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to fulfil the conditions and objectives established by the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board. We hope that will happen soon and will ultimately lead to the closure of the Office of the High Representative.

While it is important to find common solutions for the various issues between the local parties, with great care and mutual respect for the common interests of the various groups, it is also important that that takes place within the legal framework established by the Dayton Peace Agreement and the country's Constitution. Therefore we hope that the parties refrain from taking steps outside that legal framework. In fact, the creation of national institutions and strong representative structures will be beneficial to all citizens of all groups and identities.

In this context, I would like to mention and commend the concept paper prepared by the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina when they held the presidency of the Council, which indicated that the creation of solid institutions, if carried out appropriately, would help re-establish and reaffirm the pillars of security, legitimacy, accountability and efficiency, and thus peace will bring dividends. It is also important for political leaders to avoid divisive and strident rhetoric, which is an obstacle to dialogue and reconciliation, both of which are important for the creation of sustainable peace.

The political leaders are capable of playing an effective role in negotiating controversial issues and offering mutual compromises to reach solutions that will be satisfactory to all parties. That approach, although difficult, is important and indispensable in diverse societies and it is important that local parties and actors play a principal role in such settlements.

In another context, we commend the role of the Serbian Government in arresting General Ratko Mladic. We hope that bringing him to justice will be a further step towards holding all perpetrators accountable, as a firm pillar in restoring justice, in consolidating reconciliation and in the creation of a sustainable peace in the West Balkan area.

In conclusion, we reaffirm our support for the independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and we hope that it will qualitatively progress towards a peaceful and prosperous future, as its citizens deserve.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Unfortunately, we have no choice but to recognize that High Representative Inzko's analysis of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina can hardly be called objective. His report (S/2011/682, annex) again reflects considerable prejudice against the Bosnian Serb leadership. In order to gain a more balanced idea of the events taking place in Bosnia, we recommend that members of the Council also read the letter from the President of the Republika Srpska, Mr. Dodik, to the Secretary-General on 10 November, and the sixth report of the Republika Srpska to the Security Council.

The report of the High Representative creates the impression of destabilization in the internal political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which in fact runs counter to the agreed provisions of the draft resolution on the extension of the EUFOR mandate. The primary threat to the functioning of the Bosnian State — according to the High Representative, who does not offer proof — is the Republika Srpska and the actions of its leadership, which is accused of violating certain paragraphs of the Dayton Agreement. Such a characterization of the actions taken by the Bosnian Serbs is never mentioned in any communiqué of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board. Otherwise, it would have stirred a swift response from the High Representative himself, which did not in fact happen.

Russia has noted on numerous occasions a lack of proof regarding alleged violations of the Dayton Agreement in the activities noted in the report, in particular in connection with legislative measures on State property, reform of the justice system and the use of legal machinery to clarify the mandate of the High Representative. Accusations about the provocative rhetoric of the leader of the Republika Srpska do not take into account his public commitment to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, there have been threats of the use of force against Republika Srpska by Bosnian political and State actors. As far as violations of the Dayton Agreement and actions that threaten the functioning of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina are concerned, such violations are more likely to be found

in the hostile statements of the Bosnian leaders, and should evoke a response from the international community.

A typical example of his approach is the mention in the High Representative's report of the removal of the flags of Bosnia and Herzegovina in front of the Government buildings of the Republika Srpska in Banja Luka. Yet no mention is made of the many cases of the exclusion of Serbian symbols in State and cantonal entities of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Federation, nor of incidents where writing in Cyrillic was erased from road signs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The intervention of the High Representative in areas outside his Dayton mandate also raises questions, in particular in matters of budget and tax collection. We believe that the use of his extraordinary powers in January by the High Representative to adopt the budget of the Bosnia and Herzegovina was unjustified and set back the search for compromise among the peoples of the State.

Worthy of note was the episode involving the so-called crisis in the judicial and constitutional system of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The compromise reached between the leaders of the Republika Srpska and the European Union Directorate-General for External Relations and the resulting beginning of a structured dialogue under the aegis of the European Union highlight the unjustified and counter-productive nature of the use of coercive measures with respect to the Bosnian parties and underline the effectiveness of decisions reached through dialogue. In his report, however, the High Representative was critical, interpreting the situation from a deliberately negative point of view as one that was getting worse.

We are surprised at the segment of the report dealing with Croatia. The accusations levelled at the main Croatian parties by the High Representative are absurd, in particular as he contributed to the near-exclusion of those parties in the formation of the leading Government bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The patronizing tone of the High Representative is unacceptable with respect to the process of forming the new Council of Ministers based on last year's general elections. At the most recent meeting of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board, held on 6 and 7 July, all international participants in the settlement recommended that Mr. Inzko refrain from intervening in that process.

Also of concern is the High Representative's categorical claim regarding the impossibility of positively resolving the issue of eliminating the post of the Brcko District Supervisor. Like many of its partners on the Steering Board, Russia believes that all substantive issues in that regard have been solved. The High Representative's imposition of additional conditions runs counter to the agreed provisions detailed in the outcome communiqués of the Steering Board's meetings on 30 March and 7 July.

At the same time, the High Representative makes no reference to a number of positive processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The substantive agreement between Dodik and Lagumdzija on the financing programme under the instrument for pre-accession assistance in the framework of the EU allowed for a break in the stalemate and paved the way for a disbursement of €96 million. Since October, Bosnians and Croatians have been working diligently to reach an agreement on the establishment of Government bodies in the cantons of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Federation.

All of those positive elements attest to the ability of the parties to agree and find a compromise, precisely without international pressure or intervention. It would seem that the bureaucracy of the Office of the High Representative is deliberately drawing attention in the report to the negative quantitative aspects of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while ignoring the qualitative progress made by the various Bosnian parties in finding common ground. In doing so, the High Representative seeks to validate the continued existence of his Office.

Along those lines, we continue to believe that an important task for the international community at the current stage of the Bosnian settlement is the transfer of responsibility for the future of the country to Bosnians themselves. In practical terms, that means abolishing the Office of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina and implementing the agreements established by the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board and the 5+2 formula.

In view of the continuing negotiations of EU member States on the future of the Office of the High Representative, we once again to express our serious concern at the planned gradual closure, including the idea of transferring the Office outside the borders of Bosnia.

We note the decoupling of the post of the European Union Special Representative from the Office of the High Representative, as well as the appointment of Mr. Sørensen. We are convinced that a sine qua non condition for success in the work of those two international presences in Bosnia and Herzegovina is strict compliance with their mandate. We believe that their respective responsibilities should not overlap. We are convinced that any decision critical to the country's future should be taken by the Bosnian people themselves, with broad agreement among the three constituent peoples — Bosnians, Serbs and Croatians.

We believe that the work of resolving key issues in the Bosnia and Herzegovina should be based on the internationaliy agreed framework consisting of the Security Council and the Peace Implementation Council.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank High Representative Inzko for his briefing. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has visibly improved since the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, 16 years ago.

At present, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is generally stable. Progress has been made in security, constitutional reform, the rule of law and economic development. China welcomes those positive developments. However, we have also noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently facing certain difficulties in its efforts to achieve stability and promote development.

China respects the independence, sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the choice made by its people for their country's future. We hope that the various ethnic groups of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be guided by the well-being and long-term interests of their country to actively resolve their difference through dialogue, enhance mutual political trust and promote national reconciliation, so as to fully implement the Dayton Peace Agreement and to make further steady progress in the various areas concerned. China wishes to see the early establishment of a new and broadly representative Government in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country of major importance in the Balkan region. Maintaining peace and stability in the country and promoting its economic and social development is in the common interest of the international community, especially the countries in that area. China hopes that High Representative Inzko will continue to maintain close contact with the international community, including the European Union, and to play a constructive role in furtherance of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

At the same time, however, we believe that the issues surrounding Bosnia and Herzegovina are extremely complex and sensitive. The international community must therefore adopt a prudent approach in dealing with the various issues concerning the country and be highly attentive to the various concerns and views of all parties.

China supports the extension of the presence of the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina for another term.

Mr. Tatham (United Kingdom): I would like to join previous speakers in welcoming High Representative Valentin Inzko to the Council. I thank him for his detailed, accurate and objective report (S/2011/682, annex).

The United Kingdom would like to express its gratitude to the High Representative for his ongoing efforts to uphold and ensure implementation of the Dayton Accords and to encourage reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina in what has been a difficult year. High Representative Inzko has a demanding job, and we appreciate the principled and committed manner in which he carries it out. Like others, I would like to acknowledge Bosnia and Herzegovina's contribution to the work of the Council since the beginning of 2010.

The United Kingdom shares the High Representative's serious concerns over the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Some of my colleagues have pointed out that the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been broadly stable. Perhaps so, but it has certainly not been moving forward.

More than a year after the elections held in October 2010, elected politicians are still failing to deliver an agreement on the formation of a new State-level Government, delays in the formation of the Council of Ministers are preventing the passing of legislation, and no agreement has yet been reached on a 2011 budget.

We also share High Representative Inzko's concerns over the intensification of nationalistic rhetoric and challenges to State institutions, the

negligible progress made in reforms for the European Union and NATO accession and the failure to fulfil any further elements of the 5+2 conditionality necessary for the closure of the Office of the High Representative.

We note with concern the details set out in the High Representative's report of actions taken by the Republika Srpska authorities, challenging Bosnia and Herzegovina's State-level institutions, competences and laws and challenging the High Representative's authority under the Dayton Agreement. Those actions simply serve to obstruct Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress in the reform process. They offer no benefit to any segment of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We call on political leaders from all parties and ethnic groups to refrain from using divisive rhetoric that undermines State sovereignty and the authority of State institutions.

It is clear that some politicians remain unwilling to put the needs of the country and its citizens above their own nationalist agendas. We therefore echo the calls of the Peace Implementation Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina's elected politicians to fulfil their obligations to the Bosnian people to form a stable Government capable of taking forward Bosnia and Herzegovina's essential reform agenda without delay.

Delivery of effective Government is the most basic of responsibilities owed by elected representatives to those who have voted for them. The prolonged stalemate over State-level Government formation strikes us as a disappointing neglect of that responsibility. We need to focus not just on formation of a State-level Government but also on establishing a clear reform momentum. Until reforms such as the adoption of State aid and State census laws are enacted, Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to fall further behind its neighbours on the path towards European Union accession. Constitutional reforms will also be necessary to bring Bosnia and Herzegovina into line with its international legal obligations, meeting the minimum criteria for European Union membership, as well as providing a workable basis for the country's future.

Political stagnation is also having a negative impact on Bosnia and Herzegovina's economic situation, and the United Kingdom shares the High Representative's concerns over worrisome unemployment and investment figures. Recent decisions by rating agencies to downgrade Bosnia and Herzegovina's outlook provide a clear indication of how political statement damages economic confidence. That situation is made worse by endemic corruption at both the State and entity levels. We urge elected officials to take determined action to tackle all manifestations of corruption.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has had a difficult and tragic recent past. It is hard to overstate the suffering inflicted upon the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the period of conflict. But Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country that should now have hopeful prospects. It has a clear perspective for European Union and NATO membership, which provide a proven framework for peace, security and intensified regional cooperation. However, that perspective requires a commitment to reform and functionality that Bosnia and Herzegovina's politicians have yet to demonstrate. The United Kingdom urges Bosnia and Herzegovina's politicians to focus on delivery of the reform progress that will carry their country forward. Their responsibility is to realize the country's potential, not stifle it.

I referred a moment ago to the suffering experienced by the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the conflict of the 1990's. The arrest of Ratko Mladić earlier this year is a very welcome step. It brings a prospect of long-awaited justice for some of the victims and their families, which have suffered and continue to suffer. It was an important moment for the region and serves as a strong statement of the international community's commitment to international justice.

We warmly welcome the European Union's revised strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina that was agreed in March. We offer our full support to the new EU Special Representative and the new EU Head of Delegation, Peter Sørensen. Special Representative Sorensen has made an excellent start in the role and we commend the positive and collaborative relationship that has been forged between him and High Representative Inzko.

The United Kingdom supports High Representative Inzko's assessment that EUFOR Operation Althea continues to reassure the Bosnian people of their security and it welcomes the agreement reached in October in the EU Foreign Affairs Council

to continue to fulfil EUFOR's executive mandate. In light of the ongoing political instability and stagnation, it is our belief that international safeguards against instability remain essential alongside the strong EU presence. We look forward to the Council's agreement to an extension of EUFOR later this week.

Finally, to pick up on a point made by some colleagues, this year's attacks on decisions made by the High Representative come against the backdrop of talk from within Bosnia and Herzegovina of pursuing legal action against former High Representatives. Any such attempt would, in our view, be neither warranted nor a responsible course of action, and we welcome German proposals for further discussion on the matter.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): South Africa welcomes the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Security Council, and we thank him for his comprehensive briefing.

South Africa expresses deep concern that it has been over a year since Bosnia and Herzegovina held its general elections and yet it has not been able to establish a State level Government. That situation holds the potential to undermine the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. Bosnia and Herzegovina lies at the heart of Europe, and the lack of a State-level Government may damage peace and stability in the Balkans. We are also concerned that the lack of progress on that issue will continue to prevent the country from fulfilling important obligations and from completing the objectives of the five+two agenda. We therefore call for all the parties to find a way to resolve the deadlock on those matters.

It is our view that peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina are dependent on a number of elements. It is important that all parties respect the rule of law and the international instruments that underlie the political structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is crucial that the political leadership and the international presence remain focused on recognizing the balance brought about by the Dayton Agreement and the subsequent political structures. All efforts should be made to ensure that that balance be respected and maintained. This is also important in completing the process of forming a Government.

We are reminded of the fact that the Dayton Agreement is supposed to be replaced by a permanent constitution in Bosnia and Herzegovina. My delegation calls on all parties involved to begin once again to focus on constitutional reform, as the Constitution is an important instrument required for sustainable peace. None of the parties is served by actions that take the country backwards and away from constitutional reforms already agreed to and whose purpose is to establish strong and representative State structures that supersede all other structures.

We are also concerned that the parties have not instituted a sustainable way to achieve reform of the police service. However, it is noteworthy that the defence force has been successfully reformed.

In establishing lasting peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is significant need for dialogue between the parties, as no considerable progress can be made without constructive dialogue among the many ethnic groups and entities, as well as between the Bosnian structures and the High Representative.

Dialogue between all parties will also be essential for reform of the constitution as well as for the establishment of the State-level Government. A decision should also be made as to whether the office of the High Representative should be closed as soon as the outstanding objectives and conditions set by the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board in February 2008 are met. My delegation notes with concern that none of the outstanding objectives and conditions have been met during the reporting period. We therefore encourage all parties to engage actively in the completion of that process, which in turn is required by the High Representative to complete his work and for Bosnians to take full responsibility for their country.

We call on all parties not to act in a manner that will further undermine State institutions or cause further protraction of the current political dialogue. We therefore call for all parties to carefully decide whether the reopening of the liaison office in Sarajevo at the end of this year will not create further challenges.

Reconciliation should be the ultimate aim of the continued dialogue. An essential aspect for reconciliation is the commitment by all parties to fight impunity by bringing to justice those accused of committing war crimes. That process must be conducted in an impartial manner and using the judicial instruments agreed by the various parties. Reconciliation is jeopardized by provocative, divisive

nationalistic rhetoric and actions aimed at undermining the Bosnian State.

Regarding the EUFOR mandate in Bosnia and Herzegovina, South Africa supports its renewal for a further 12 months. We hope that the renewal of that mandate will assist the country in resolving all outstanding political issues.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to highlight that political will is significant. We therefore encourage all parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina recommit themselves to full implementation of their obligations under the peace accords and agreements. South Africa remains dedicated to its task as a member of the Security Council to support Bosnia and Herzegovina in those efforts.

Ms. Rice (United States): Let me begin by welcoming High Representative Inzko back to the Security Council. We thank Ambassador Inzko for his comprehensive briefing and his service in support of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

The signing of the Dayton Accords helped Bosnia and Herzegovina end a terrible conflict and established a framework for a lasting peace. That framework has been the cornerstone of the country's stability for over 16 years. Today, Bosnia and Herzegovina has demonstrated that it is a strong and responsible member of the international community in a variety of ways, including through its tenure on the Security Council and with its continued participation in the international security force in Afghanistan. Bosnian leaders have shown that cooperation and consensus are possible on complicated matters of international peace and security. We remain hopeful that they will continue to work together to overcome their internal political difficulties. In order for the country to keep pace with progress elsewhere in the region, it must be able to function as a State that can deliver results for all its citizens, regardless of their ethnicity.

I would like to make three points in reaction to the report of the High Representative (see S/2011/682). First, the United States remains fully committed to the General Framework Agreement for Peace established by the Dayton Accords. We are concerned by continuing challenges to the Framework, including statements that undermine its constitutional arrangements and challenge Bosnia and Herzegovina's statehood. Such statements are unacceptable. Bosnian politicians should demonstrate their commitment to the Dayton Framework and their willingness to abide by the decisions of State institutions.

During our debate on this issue in May (S/PV.6529), we agreed with the High Representative's assessment that the conclusions adopted by the Republika Srpska National Assembly in April presented a serious challenge to the Framework. While we note today that the National Assembly repealed its decision to hold a referendum on the High Representative's decisions, we share Ambassador Inzko's concern that other controversial conclusions have not been repealed. The High Representative has our full support in condemning unwarranted and unlawful challenges to his authority. He will likewise have our full support in any steps he takes to uphold Dayton and to defend and preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. As I stated in the May debate, we will continue to consider our own measures in support of Dayton and Bosnian State institutions, should any become necessary.

The United States also agrees that there is a need to safeguard the Office of the High Representative's efforts by protecting it and its staff from politically motivated legal actions. We recognize that the Dayton Accords provide for immunity only within Bosnia and Herzegovina and neighbouring countries, and believe that we must find mechanisms for providing protection against unwarranted court proceedings in other countries as well. We understand that some States are not in a position to adopt domestic legislation, as the United States has done, and we would welcome a more thorough discussion with partners on this issue.

Secondly, Bosnia and Herzegovina needs functioning political institutions. We agree with the High Representative's assessment that cooperation within the tripartite Presidency has improved, and we remain optimistic about the Presidency's continued and increasing coordination. However, 13 months after general elections, the country remains mired in a political stalemate. That stalemate has impeded formation of a new State-level Government, hampered progress on governmental reforms necessary for Euro-Atlantic integration, and contributed to credit-rating agencies downgrading the country's outlook.

To be considered for European Union candidate status, Bosnia and Herzegovina must pass laws on a census and State aid, as well as beginning a serious effort to comply with the ruling by the European Court

of Human Rights in the *Sejdić and Finci* case to provide equal rights for all citizens, including members of national minorities. To participate in NATO's membership action plan, Bosnia and Herzegovina must address State registration of defence properties. We welcome the fact that party leaders have engaged in a series of discussions on these issues, along with Government formation, and we call on those leaders to reach agreement that will result in concrete progress in these areas as soon as possible. While the United States looks forward to the day that the Office of the High Representative is no longer needed, the outstanding items on the 5+2 agenda must first be fulfilled, and we note the lack of progress made in this area during the reporting period.

My third point is that the United States supports the European Union's enhanced presence under its Special Representative, Peter Sørensen. We underscore how important it is that he and his office have the resources, the political support and the operational flexibility to guide Bosnia and Herzegovina on the path to European integration. We look forward to working closely with the Special Representative, and strongly endorse close coordination between the Offices of the Special Representative and the High Representative. We also note that the military presence of the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR) continues to contribute to a safe and secure environment and should be maintained. We therefore support renewal of the EUFOR mandate.

In closing, let me reiterate that the United States remains committed to working in close coordination with the High Representative, the European Union and partners on the Peace Implementation Council to support the Bosnian people on their path towards Euro-Atlantic integration and a peaceful and prosperous future.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): I would like to join other colleagues in welcoming High Representative Valentin Inzko to the Security Council, and in thanking him for his comprehensive briefing. I would also like to place on record our appreciation for the Secretary-General's report on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see S/2011/682).

It is a matter of satisfaction that, during the period covered by the report, the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina functioned with improved cooperation compared to its previous composition, and that a number of foreign-policy decisions were taken. It is also commendable that the Federation Government functioned well during the reporting period. We have noted that, in September, the leaders of the six main parties began negotiations on forming a new Government at the State level and adopting reforms aimed at progressing towards Euro-Atlantic integration. We hope that these negotiations will succeed in resolving the continuing political stalemate that has existed since the elections in October 2010, and pave the way for the formation of a new Government.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a novel experiment in building a new nation from the rubble of the civil war that the people of the former Yugoslavia had to endure in the 1990s. It is never easy to build a multi-ethnic, multilingual, multicultural and multireligious country. The problems mentioned in the Secretary-General's report and by the High Representative in his briefing today are bound to be encountered on the path to building a nation inhabited by people of different faiths, ethnicities and languages. Our own experience over the past six decades has convinced us that although the path of building such a nation is long and arduous, the fruits are well worth the effort.

Solving the problems facing the Bosnian people therefore calls for patience, determination and mutual accommodation. Unilateral actions, mutual suspicion, rhetorical statements and violations of the General Framework Agreement for Peace will only vitiate the political and social atmosphere and delay achievement of the required goals. We would therefore urge the leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the international community, to persevere in spite of the occasional problems that may be encountered.

Through its continued presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina has played an important role in assuring the country's citizens safety and security even when the political situation has sometimes been tense. We therefore support the extension of its mandate.

In conclusion, I commend the work being done by the High Representative, Mr. Inzko, in assisting the people and leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina in their nation-building endeavours. We fully support his efforts.

The President: I will now speak in my national capacity as representative of Portugal.

Once again, I welcome the High Representative, Ambassador Inzko, and convey to him Portugal's appreciation and support for his important and demanding work, and that of his Office, in the interests of peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We also thank him for his very comprehensive recent report (see S/2011/682) and for today's presentation, both of which deserve our full support. I would also like to recall the appointment of the new European Union Special Representative and Head of Delegation, Peter Sørensen, and wish him all success in his challenging tasks.

Portugal naturally shares the views expressed in the statement to be made later by the observer of the European Union, but I would also like to emphasize some issues of particular concern to my country.

For the past 13 months, Bosnia and Herzegovina has been facing a serious political impasse that has affected the development of national policies as well as the country's progress towards integration into the European Union. For instance, the State budget for 2011 has not yet been adopted, and there is no global fiscal framework for 2011-2013. This worrying situation creates a deadlock on much-needed internal and external action, which is detrimental to Bosnia's social and economic development.

But, of course, the most important issue is that of the new Government. Efforts must be enhanced to reach an agreement so that a new Council of Ministers can be formed without delay. Portugal calls on Bosnian political leaders to fully address their responsibilities and to meet the legitimate expectations and needs of their people. That requires effective political will, inclusive dialogue and capacity for compromise.

However, Portugal believes that the challenges that Bosnia and Herzegovina faces are not insurmountable. The solutions naturally lie within Bosnia and Herzegovina. But, on the other hand, the international community must stay fully engaged with Bosnia and Herzegovina. This requires our steadfast commitment to ensure the operational capacity of existing structures within the framework of the General Framework Agreement for Peace, but also the ability to reflect on and respond to the specific needs of the country in an adequate, constructive and open-minded manner.

Portugal supports the renewal of the mandate of the European Union-led peacekeeping force (EUFOR) Operation Althea by the Security Council. We support the orientation of EUFOR's focus on capacity-building and training, while at the same time preserving the conditions for it to maintain a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Before concluding, a sincere word of deep appreciation goes to our colleague, Ambassador Ivan Barbalić, and his team for their permanently constructive spirit and their excellent contribution to the work of the Council. We wish them well in the future.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting.

Mr. Mayr-Harting: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU). The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Albania; and the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

I would like to join other speakers in welcoming High Representative Valentin Inzko back to the Council. Let me also express our gratitude for his work and efforts undertaken during his time as European Union Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to be difficult. We note with relief that the overall security situation has remained calm and stable for a long time now, but we are concerned by the political uncertainty and the economic outlook. A State-level Government has not yet been formed, one year after the elections of October 2010. While we welcome that discussions among political leaders intensified earlier this fall on the formation of the Council of Ministers, this has yet to translate into results. We therefore call on the political leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina to form, through an inclusive process, a State-level Government as a matter of urgency.

In addition, we believe that the outstanding urgent and necessary reforms to achieve qualitative

steps forward on Bosnia and Herzegovina's path towards the European Union need to be addressed rapidly. In that regard, we encourage the Security Council to send a message of serious concern, urging all political actors to find common solutions within the General Framework Agreement for Peace.

The European Union believes that as a matter of priority and to ensure that the country does not fall behind the region on its path towards European integration, it is critical that obligations under the interim stabilization and association agreement are fulfilled. In that regard, Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to undertake a credible effort to bring its Constitution into compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights and to adopt a law on State aid that is compatible with EU acquis. Similarly, the adoption of a State-level census law is important.

Further progress will be needed to allow for a credible membership application. It is the prime responsibility of Bosnia and Herzegovina's political leaders to achieve concrete and tangible progress, including on the five objectives and two conditions for closure of the Office of the High Representative.

The European Union is strengthening its engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina so as to support its progress towards European Union accession through a comprehensive approach and significant financial assistance and expertise. In that regard, the European Union has enhanced its political presence with the appointment of a new single European Union Representative, Mr. Peter Sørensen, who has the lead in supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina in EU-related matters, including through the use of a broad and balanced toolbox.

In addition, the European Union maintains two crisis management missions on the ground: first, the European Union Police Mission, which will be closed by the end of June 2012 and whose remaining strategic tasks will be transferred to the European Union Special Representative; and secondly, the EU-led force (EUFOR) Operation Althea, which remains an important element of the EU's overall strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina. As our Foreign Ministers reaffirmed on 10 October, the European Union is ready to continue at this stage an executive military role to support Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to maintain a safe and secure environment under a renewed United Nations mandate.

The main effort of Operation Althea will be in capacity-building and training, while maintaining situational awareness and a credible reserve, in case called upon to support EUFOR efforts to maintain or restore a safe and secure environment.

As regards the its overall strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Union looks forward to the discussions with the international community on the reconfiguration of the international presence, including its downsizing and the possible relocation of the Office of the High Representative in the appropriate forum. The European Union regularly encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina's political representatives to act with a greater spirit of compromise, to step up consultations and to work for the long-term interests of the country. We also stand fully behind the authority of the High Representative and welcome the close cooperation between him and the new European Union Special Representative.

Moreover, we underline once more our unequivocal commitment to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a sovereign and united country. We urge all to refrain from divisive rhetoric and actions that would harm the interests of the citizens.

Sixteen years after the signature of the Dayton-Paris Peace Agreements, Bosnia and Herzegovina's citizens deserve a qualitative step forward by their country on the path towards European integration. On 12 October, the European Commission adopted its 2011 enlargement package. According to its findings, Bosnia and Herzegovina has made only limited progress in addressing EU-related issues. We reiterate our appeal to the political leaders to accelerate the pace of the reforms in all areas, to put Bosnia and Herzegovina firmly on the way towards the European Union.

The President: I give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Serbia.

Mr. Starčević (Serbia): We read with attention the report submitted by His Excellency Mr. Valentin Inzko, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina (see S/2011/682, annex). We also listened attentively to his statement this morning. We wished that some formulations in the report and the briefing had been perhaps more balanced with regard to the positions of the two entities. Equally, perhaps not every expression of the entities' views on some existing

problems can be understood as antagonistic rhetoric. That is certainly not the monopoly of either part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also, the positive developments of the kind mentioned by the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina perhaps merited more attention, as we must retain a positive outlook on the future of that country.

I am certain that Mr. Inzko will take our remarks in good faith, as they do not detract from our basic appreciation for his work in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Allow me to express once again the consistent and principled policy of the Republic of Serbia in support of preserving the integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, lasting stabilization of its internal situation and achieving a sustainable solution, in the spirit of European standards, that is acceptable to each of its three constitutive peoples.

As one of the signatories and guarantors of the Dayton Peace Accords, Serbia considers that Bosnia and Herzegovina should function more efficiently than has been the case so far and believes that this can be achieved only through substantive and legitimate decisions of the democratically elected representatives of citizens, all three constituent peoples and both entities.

We fully support the stability, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina and are completely aware that every decision on changes to the internal system defined by the Dayton Accords must come as a result of complete consensus, in order to ensure political efficacy and stability. Only the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the citizens of that country can define its policy, and there are no powers on the basis of which these functions could be taken over by international presences. The history of the Balkans teaches us that impositions and majority domination cannot bring the needed and expected results.

Serbia seeks the closest good-neighbourly and friendly relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its orientation towards the advancement of relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina was confirmed also through constructive support during the negotiations on constitutional reforms. We welcome the initiation of a structural dialogue between the European Union (EU) and Bosnia and Herzegovina on judiciary reform, as well as the strengthening of the presence of the European Commission through the unification of the posts of Head of Delegation and Special Representative of the European Union.

We wish Bosnia and Herzegovina every success on its road towards the European Union. We regard the decision taken by the European Union on the liberalization of the visa regime as a strategically important signal for the European future of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We consider that additional, concrete encouragements from the European Union are necessary to further stabilize the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, bearing in mind that EU membership is in the common interest of all in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We believe that the international community should treat relations between the three constitutive peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina with great care and on the basis of respect for their mutual interests. Rather than calling into question the integrity of the country, every solution in Bosnia and Herzegovina should be such as to contribute to its peace and stability. Serbia encourages all parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to make additional efforts to reach sustainable solutions to all open questions.

Serbia is of the opinion that the process of closing the Office of the High Representative and of cancelling the so-called Bonn powers should be embarked upon because the legitimately elected representatives of all peoples and entities have the ability and capacity to assume responsibility for the independent conduct of the affairs of State and the initiation of reform processes.

Serbia is fully committed to continuing to act, through cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina and other neighbouring countries, towards reconciliation in the interest of the achievement of lasting stability in the region.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Croatia.

Mr. Vilović (Croatia): At the outset, allow me to extend my welcome to His Excellency Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative and Special Representative of the European Union (EU), and to thank him for his briefing and report (see S/2011/682). Croatia aligns itself with the statement of the EU, but allow me to deliver a statement in my national capacity as well.

Historically, the EU enlargement process has shown itself to be the most effective political

instrument for bringing peace, stability and prosperity to the European continent. Today, Croatia's example testifies to the fact that the perspective of EU and NATO membership brings to a national political life a strong motivation to find the way forward. The only region that is still far from the real benefits of the enlargement process is the Western Balkans. Croatia has consistently advocated membership in the European Union and NATO as the best framework for stabilizing its South-East European neighbours. We will continue to provide our political and technical support in that regard to all the countries of the region, especially Bosnia and Herzegovina.

For Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Dayton Peace Agreement brought peace but not stability or prosperity. The country today yearns for a more functional political system. This change must come from within and must not be introduced at the expense of democracy. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country of two entities and three constitutive peoples. The State itself can be strengthened only by respecting the equality of the three peoples in all possible aspects of life. At the highest political level this requires the legitimate representatives of each people — those who carry the majority of votes of its people — to be acknowledged as such. Our frustration with the inefficiency of the political system of Bosnia and Herzegovina makes it tempting to forget this basic democratic principle, but as the Arab Spring has demonstrated lately, building and cherishing democracy is the only way forward in the search for long-term stability.

We are today faced with two grave challenges to Bosnia and Herzegovina. One is the rhetorical flirtation with the breakup of the country. The international community and all countries of the region must send a clear message that such rhetoric is unacceptable. The other serious challenge is the position of Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As recent history has shown, they — as the least populous of the three peoples — have serious difficulties in electing their representatives within the existing system. When addressing this problem, we should not forget that citizens' identification with their country is in strong correlation with its democratic process. We must therefore make sure that the democratic will of Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the least populous people, is fully respected.

Our emphasis today on Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina is not based on ethnicity. It is based on our firm belief that the unity and stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina depend primarily on the actual equality of Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs. Treating the smallest and the most vulnerable constitutive people as a minority equals giving up on the viability and unity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a country in which division into two entities represents a real obstacle to inner integration, reducing the number of constitutive peoples — be it de jure or de facto — could lead to the breakup of the country that would create a scenario with dire consequences.

Instead of such an approach, we should support the democratic process itself, bearing in mind that democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina starts with ensuring equal rights for all three constitutive peoples. Democracy brought stability to the countries of the Western hemisphere, and it will bring stability to Bosnia and Herzegovina, regardless of all the complexity it implies there.

Croatia is especially eager to see Bosnia and Herzegovina embark on the process of integration into the EU and NATO. We are more than ready to share our unique experience with the leadership and institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, regardless of their ethnicity. We know how demanding and challenging these processes are and how detrimental any sort of democratic deficit can be at every step of the way. Any doubt about whether the EU-based reforms will be beneficial to all three peoples equally may be fatal to the process. We all agree that the present state of internal integration is not particularly conducive to Bosnia and Herzegovina's successful accession into the EU or NATO. That fact should not be a reason for giving up on the accession process; we should rather consider a new tailor-made accession process designed specifically for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Some believe that we should move away from the so-called ethnic approach and that Bosnia and Herzegovina can move forward only if ethnicity — that is, nationality — gives way to common citizenship. Although this at first glance may seem to be a solution to many of Bosnia and Herzegovina's problems, it is not. However seductive the idea of quickly reaching a functional State on that base may be, we must not forget that ethnic-national affiliation is a very strong

component of individual identities in that country, and perhaps even more so than in most European countries.

We should not underestimate or disregard as antiquated the legal/constitutional and deeply-rooted political traditions of Yugoslav federalism, which was founded on the rights of constituent peoples. It is realistic to think that successful affirmation of the concept of a constituent citizen achievable through prior affirmation of the concept of constituent peoples. Bypassing the issue of ethnic and national identity, instead of solving it, would shortly get us back to the beginning and would constitute a heavy burden in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration.

Croatia thus advocates an accession and integration process into the EU and NATO that would link together, under well-defined and tight conditionality, national institution-building, democratic practices and a free market economy. However, first and foremost, there should be constitutional reform, which would assure all three peoples that their credible voices are heard and respected. Only a political leadership, be it at the State, the entity or the cantonal level, accountable to all three constitutive peoples can lead Bosnia and Herzegovina through the long-awaited reforms to a better future.

The President: There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at noon.

United Nations S/PV.6660

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6660th meeting

Tuesday, 15 November 2011, 3.35 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Moraes Cabral	(Portugal)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms. Čolaković
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mr. Onemola
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (S/2011/678)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

11-59366 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (S/2011/678)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of South Sudan and the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Hilde Johnson, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome Special Representative Johnson, who is joining today's meeting via video teleconference from Juba, South Sudan.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/678, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan.

I now give the floor to Ms. Hilde Johnson.

Ms. Johnson: Mr. President, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to present to the Council the first quarterly report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) (S/2011/678). I will highlight key observations of the report and update the Council on key developments in South Sudan since its publication early this month.

In the first four months of the Mission's deployment and South Sudan's independence, it is clear that there are huge expectations from both within and outside of South Sudan for its transition into a stable democracy. The challenges are even greater.

Even with the best of intentions from its leadership to ensure that priorities and spending decisions are aligned with the needs of its citizens, the Government of South Sudan will need all the support it can get. Here, the international community and UNMISS must quickly mobilize the political will, resources and capacities to capitalize on the momentum from independence to enable this transition to take place.

As highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General before the Council today, the Government of South Sudan and UNMISS have both been in start-up mode in these first four months. There have been some notable achievements during this challenging period.

The first such achievement was the rapid response of UNMISS to the unfolding crisis in Jonglei state, which was possible, in part, thanks to the transfer of assets from the former United Nations Mission in the Sudan. We are encouraged by the assessment made by the affected communities indicating that the rapid response to the crisis helped prevent significant retaliation attacks and a further escalation of violence.

Also encouraging have been the first steps taken by the Government of South Sudan to develop broader and more representative Government institutions and a legislature, and to achieve tangible progress towards objectives set for its first 100 days. Still, concerns remain as to how the Government will address the key challenges of the transitional period in the areas of governance, corruption and political inclusiveness.

President Salva Kiir Mayardit's commitment to enacting five bills related to public financial management and accountability has been well received. The next couple of months will gauge whether the 1 December deadline is met and meaningful delivery can begin to take place. The Government's consultation with political parties in the drafting of key legislation has instilled increased confidence in the Government's express commitment to principles of political pluralism. However, the upcoming constitutional review process will be the critical test in this regard.

The most significant threat to civilians during the reporting period was faced in Jonglei state. Here, UNMISS mobilized its assets quickly to respond with a multifaceted approach of monitoring and early warning civilian assessments, daily air patrols and long-range ground patrols for deterrence, local reconciliation initiatives and political good offices. The

Government's support for conflict mitigation initiatives involving civil society and traditional leaders in Jonglei is noteworthy.

The Government has also made significant strides to neutralize internal security threats through the integration of rebel militia groups. Yet, a few remain outside of these processes, with an impact on security in Unity and Upper Nile states, as we have also seen with recent events. The prevalence of small arms from these groups is believed to have increased the scale of intercommunal violence, as witnessed in Jonglei state.

UNMISS has a key supporting role to play in the protection of civilians, but the Government retains ultimate responsibility. The efforts of UNMISS to strengthen the capacity of national security organs to deliver security and the rule of law will bolster the Government's ability to protect its own citizens. There is an urgent need to transform and professionalize these institutions in order to meet minimal international standards. This will be by far the most important factor in strengthening respect for human rights in South Sudan.

We are working closely with the Republic of South Sudan to ensure full coordination and unhindered ability to implement resolution 1996 (2011). On 30 September, I presented the mandate to the newly-formed Government. Subsequently, the Cabinet and National Security Committee met and agreed to endorse the mandate. A joint UNMISS-Government mechanism was established, co-chaired by Vice-President Riek Machar and myself, comprised of 10 ministers, the representatives of four commissioners and representatives from the Mission. The group was formed to strengthen cooperation on mandate implementation, achieve peace and security objectives, and raise awareness about the UNMISS mandate. This is an important step in assisting UNMISS in achieving the objectives of the resolution.

On 10 November, we convened our first meeting. We discussed the road map for UNMISS-Government collaboration on important mandate areas: the protection of civilians, including the military concept of operations and threat analysis; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; peacebuilding; political milestones, especially the constitutional review; and human rights. Meetings are scheduled to take place regularly, during which we will focus on each one of these issues, as well as other elements of the mandate.

The group will oversee nationwide awareness-raising about the mandate of the Mission and the status-of-forces agreement. In that respect, I was invited to brief all 10 state Governors, in the presence of the National Legislature, at the opening session of the Governors' forum on Monday. Following my presentation, the Vice-President welcomed the role played by UMISS and urged all officials to study and comply with the mandate. He also said that Government actors at every level are responsible for ensuring that no violations of the status-of-forces agreement occur.

In my meeting with the Ministers last week, I discussed the distressing number and scale of violations of the status-of-forces agreement, and agreed that this UNMISS-Government mechanism would be used as a way to ensure that violations are investigated, perpetrators held accountable, and all authorities fully briefed on the status-of-forces agreement to prevent future incidents.

In addition to the incidents already reported, I am disappointed to report that, on 11 November, the Sudan People's Liberation Army detained an UNMISS helicopter in Eastern Equatoria state for six hours, under threat of force. Such actions are unacceptable and greatly undermine our operations to support peace and security in the nation.

Mindful of the challenges that lie ahead for South Sudan, as outlined earlier and in the report of the Secretary-General, one should not minimize its key assets in meeting the challenges posed by the political will of its leadership, the hopes and aspirations of its people, and the resolute commitment of the international community, including the Council, to supporting South Sudan's peaceful and democratic transition.

UNMISS stands ready to support the Government of South Sudan in meeting these challenges and is moving forward to fill critical capacity gaps, especially in the areas of human rights and the rule of law, where the Mission has a robust mandate and where there is limited institutional capacity. In the coming months, as the Mission builds capacity and transitions out of start-up mode, I and my team will work closely with the new Republic towards accomplishing these objectives.

I plan to continue my visits to all 10 states of South Sudan, as well as to travel to all of its neighbouring capitals, in line with my mandate to support South Sudan's regional relations. If sustainable peace and stability are to prevail in South Sudan, good relations with its neighbours are essential.

As Council members know, the mandate of UNMISS covers the Republic of South Sudan. It does not cover border monitoring or, more broadly, the relationship between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan. From the perspective of peace and stability in South Sudan, we know that the country is dependent on good relations with its neighbours, and first and foremost its neighbour to the north, the Republic of the Sudan.

For this reason, we are very concerned about the heightened rhetoric on both sides, with accusations and counter-accusations leading to the further escalation of tensions between the two countries. As Special Representative of the Secretary-General in South Sudan, I met yesterday with President Salva Kiir Mayardit and conveyed the need for the Government to tone down its rhetoric. For more detail on recent events and relations with Sudan, such as verification of the bombings in Yida and the Guffa area, I now refer to Under-Secretary-General Ladsous for his briefing to the Security Council.

The President: I thank Ms. Johnson for her briefing.

I now call on Mr. Ladsous.

Mr. Ladsous: I thank you, Sir, for this opportunity to further brief the Security Council on recent tensions on the border between the Sudan and South Sudan, and recent reports of bombings in the border areas. I will also say a few words on the report of the creation of a new military coalition between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North and Darfur rebel groups.

UNMISS dispatched a verification mission to Yida, Unity state, on Sunday, 13 November. A joint team of civilian and military personnel, including mine-action staff, confirmed that four bombs had been dropped on 10 November. Three of these bombs exploded and one did not. The fourth bomb landed on a schoolyard but, fortunately, did not explode. According to different eyewitness accounts of the incident, the bombs were dropped by a white Antonov aircraft coming from the Sudan.

The Government of the Sudan has denied that these bombings took place on South Sudanese territory. Luckily, no casualties or injuries were suffered during this incident. The Nuba populations that had fled the Yida refugee camp following the bombing are now slowly returning. I am also in a position to confirm that bombing took place in Guffa, in Maban county, Upper Nile state, on 8 November. At least four bombs were dropped.

Regarding reports of fighting in Kwek, in Manyo county, Upper Nile state, on 11 November, UNMISS could not verify the allegations of cross-border incursions. It confirmed that fighting took place in the northern part of Manyo county, however, and supported the medical evacuation of nine seriously injured Sudan People's Liberation Army soldiers from Renk to Juba.

(*spoke in French*)

As stated by the Secretary-General yesterday, the escalation of rhetoric between the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan, particularly in regard to cross-border support to their respective rebel groups and incursions into one another's territory, is extremely worrying. The African Union High-Level Implementation Panel chaired by President Mbeki has called for a meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism between the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan on 18 November. As the Council is probably aware, the Joint Political and Security Mechanism is a Cabinet-level bilateral body agreed upon by the two Heads of States to resolve disputes and to support the consolidation of peaceful relations between the two countries.

I would like to urge both Governments to seize this opportunity to de-escalate the current situation and move swiftly towards the establishment of the joint border monitoring mechanism they agreed upon on 30 July. Only the two parties, working together, can efficiently and effectively manage security at their common border. As stated by the Secretary-General his September report (S/2011/603) on Abyei, the United Nations stands ready to support them in that respect.

The Panel will also resume post-Comprehensive Peace Agreement negotiations at the end of the week in Addis Ababa. In that connection as well, I would like

to urge both Governments to demonstrate the necessary flexibility and commitment and to agree swiftly on a package of measures to resolve remaining differences on financial transitional arrangements, Abyei and border demarcation. Both meetings are critical to reduce tensions, but the parties will also need to make sure that any efforts aimed at providing support to rebel groups one another's territory seizes immediately.

We also received reports this weekend of the establishment of a new military alliance of Darfur rebel movements and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North, which is calling for the forceful removal from power of the Government of the Sudan. That represents a stage in a pattern of escalation that is counter-productive. The United Nations continues to stress that all parties to the different conflicts between the Government of the Sudan and its peripheries need to return to the negotiating table and resolve their differences through political dialogue. There is no military solution to the Sudan conflicts and all military actions only endanger the lives of innocent civilians, who deserve a return to peace and stability after so many years of fighting.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Ladsous for his briefing.

(*spoke in English*)

I now give the floor to the representative of South Sudan.

Mr. Choat (South Sudan): On behalf of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, I wish to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (S/2011/678). I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, as well as Ms. Hilde Johnson, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for her role on the ground in the successful establishment of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS). Lastly, I wish to thank all members that have contributed military and police personnel to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan. We are grateful for their support of the Mission.

As noted by the Secretary-General in his report, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan has made progress on the 100-day programme established by President Kiir following the appointment of his Cabinet in early September. In particular, President Kiir has committed to enacting legislation on transparency and accountability. The Government is also forging ahead with its plan to establish the national constitutional review commission in early 2012. Those actions will contribute to the establishment of a fully functioning democracy, in which the Government is accountable to the people and acts in the people's interests.

The security situation in Jonglei and Upper Nile states is of course a concern to my Government. We underline that, on 9 July, President Kiir once again extended an amnesty to all militia groups. Since then, my Government has worked successfully to reach agreements with several groups, resulting in their integration into the South Sudan armed forces. Certain groups have, however, chosen not to accept the amnesty offer or to negotiate the terms of their integration into the South Sudan armed forces. We will redouble our efforts in that regard. In the meantime, the Government takes very seriously its primary responsibility for the protection of civilians and, as noted by the Secretary-General, has mobilized additional troops to the areas of greatest concern.

Recently, the Republic of the Sudan accused the Republic of South Sudan of facilitating and hosting two meetings, in Juba and Yei, for the purpose of uniting rebel factions to overthrow the Government in Khartoum. That allegation is baseless. We stress categorically that there is no element of truth to the claims of accusations brought forth by Khartoum, nor any sponsorship by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan for any hostile activities to topple the Government in Khartoum, militarily or otherwise. Moreover, as a matter of policy, we are not providing military assistance to the opposition forces operating in the Sudan.

The Republic of South Sudan encourages both the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the opposition forces to engage in mutually beneficial discussions that will enable a peaceful resolution of hostilities and improve the current humanitarian crisis in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

In conclusion, the Republic of South Sudan will continue to enhance its security and the delivery of services to its citizens. We welcome the support of the international community and that of United Nations agencies.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Osman (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me, first, to thank you, Mr. President, for giving us this opportunity to participate in this meeting to enable the Council to acquaint itself with the truth, in order that it can adopt positive and objective resolutions. I should like to make five points during my intervention.

My first point is that we are committed to the peace process and negotiations to achieve a peaceful solution to outstanding issues between us and our brothers in South Sudan. Any allegations that the Government in the north is seeking to carry out military action against the south in order to occupy it are unacceptable. We are the ones who granted the south a peaceful transition towards independence, a choice they exercised in complete freedom and in a smoothly organized way.

The second point that I would like to emphasize to the Council is that, regrettably, the Government of South Sudan is continuing to support rebel movements. It supervised two meetings, at Yei and Juba, which resulted in the establishment of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front, whose declared objective is to topple the Government in the north through military action. That is further confirmed by information I have just received, to which I hope the members of the Council will be patient enough to listen. The source is Captain Hafez Hamza Abkar, who defected from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). He has affirmed that General James Oshun and Major Mattur supervised the transport of military equipment from Serjas by plane to the Jamjam area in Southern Kordofan. Those are confessions that we can provide to the Council on video, with sound, from an officer of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

The third point I want to share with the Council concerns the Yida camp. For the benefit of everyone, the camp is on a lake called Lake Abyad. Part of the lake is in the southern part of the Sudan and the other part is in South Sudan. The camp is in the Sudan, in Southern Kordofan. It is not a refugee camp at all. We should be more precise and specific, Mr. Ladsous, when we use terms. It is not a refugee camp; it is a camp of the Ninth Brigade of the SPLA. I am not used to telling lies. I am speaking concrete facts. I am —

(*spoke in English*)

— dealing with the Council in all civility, according to the dictates of diplomacy. Even if I have to differ with anybody, I would start by saying, "I beg to differ". I never lie. I do not lie.

(*spoke in Arabic*)

It is my hope that this information can help the Council to verify the facts and not rush to accuse and condemn the Government of the Sudan of undertaking military activities or aerial bombardment of civilians. As I have said, we reserve our right to self-defence and to carry out any military actions within our national territory. I wish to assure the Council that we never will carry out any military actions inside the territory of the Government of South Sudan.

To show our good will, even though many defend false and baseless accusations about us, the same day that we were wrongly accused of bombing territories of the Government of South Sudan, there were more than 30 trucks carrying goods, including food, on their way from the north to the south at the Joda crossing. That can easily be verified. It is part of the commercial activities that we consider a humanitarian obligation, because of the need of our brothers in South Sudan for those supplies. Thirty trucks have crossed the border through the Joda crossing point into South Sudan.

I hope the Council will take into consideration what I have said and will link it to what is mentioned in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report (S/2011/678) about shortages of basic commodities and inflation reaching 61.5 per cent in South Sudan. That is the spirit in which we confront those who defend untrue accusations; they will only expose themselves in the final analysis, however loud their voices may be.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6661

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6661 st meeting

Wednesday, 16 November 2011, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Moraes Cabral	(Portugal)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mr. Fernandes
	China	Mr. Yang Tao
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Bonne
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Kumar
	Lebanon	Mr. Assaf
	Nigeria	Mr. Onowu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Filatkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Tatham
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Letter dated 3 November 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/682)

Letter dated 15 November 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/717)

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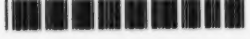
11-59535 (E)



Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Letter dated 3 November 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/682)

Letter dated 15 November 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/717)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Italy and Spain to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2011/713, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France, Germany, Italy, Nigeria, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/682, which contains the text of a letter dated 3 November 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the fortieth report of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina. I also wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/717, which contains the text of a letter dated 15 November 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the twenty-sixth quarterly report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Colombia, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2019 (2011).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6662

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6662nd meeting

Monday, 21 November 2011, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Portas	(Portugal)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Vukašinović
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Ms. Londoño
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Messone
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	India	Mr. Kumar
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

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11-60238 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

The President: Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Robert Serry, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I now give the floor to Mr. Serry.

Mr. Serry: It is an honour for me to brief the Council today in your presence, Sir, and under your presidency.

During the reporting period, both parties engaged separately with the Quartet in the framework of the 23 September statement. While that is constructive, direct negotiations without preconditions, in which the parties would be expected to table territorial and security proposals within 90 days, are still not taking place. Provocations continue to damage confidence and make resuming direct negotiations very difficult. Settlements are expanding, undermining the territorial basis for a future Palestinian State and the credibility of Palestinian moderates.

The Palestinian bid for membership in the United Nations is viewed negatively by Israel, and the Palestinian Authority's tax revenue is being withheld by the Government of Israel. UNESCO funding has also been affected. Palestinian unity has not moved forward, though there is speculation about future developments. Meanwhile, Gaza has once again witnessed dangerous violence, including rocket fire by militants into Israel and Israeli strikes.

President Abbas has publicly warned that the status quo cannot endure. We have to find a meaningful diplomatic path forward. As the Secretary-General's envoy, I am engaged with both parties and my Quartet and regional partners in that effort. His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan paid an official visit to Ramallah today to hold consultations with President Abbas, underscoring his concern at the current situation and his support for the Palestinian Authority and a resumption of meaningful negotiations for the creation of a Palestinian State.

The 23 September statement of the Quartet reaffirmed the international legal basis for peace talks. It continues to provide the framework for a way forward if both parties show flexibility and responsibility. Quartet envoys and Quartet Representative Blair met separately on two occasions in Jerusalem with Israeli and Palestinian representatives, on 26 October and 14 November. Quartet envoys stressed the need for the parties to avoid provocations, develop serious proposals on borders and security, and discuss them directly with each other without delay or preconditions, with active Quartet support.

The United Nations appreciates the substance that has been discussed by the Palestinian side, which shows serious intent. At the same time, we believe its potential can be realized only in direct negotiations. While we appreciate Israel's stated security concerns and its readiness to enter direct talks, we also believe that Israel should provide genuine assurances that it is willing to present serious proposals, including on territory, in the context of direct negotiations. Moreover, direct engagement should be facilitated by a conducive environment.

That remains very difficult given the lack of mutual trust and tensions on the ground. In particular, Israel continues to engage in settlement activity, including in highly sensitive areas, and demolitions of Palestinian structures are ongoing. On 1 November, Israel announced the accelerated construction of housing units in occupied East Jerusalem after the decision by UNESCO to admit Palestine as a member. Israel subsequently publicized its intention to invite tenders for the construction of 1,557 new units in East Jerusalem and 673 units in other areas of the West Bank. On 2 November, the Secretary-General strongly criticized settlement activity, which runs contrary to international law and the Road Map and prejudices final status negotiations. Unilateral actions on the ground will not be recognized by the international community and must cease.

The Palestinian application for membership in the United Nations remains before the Council. Meanwhile, on 31 October, UNESCO's General Conference voted in favour of Palestinian membership.

The decision was the prerogative of member States. The Secretary-General had urged that all parties approach the issue wisely in determining a course of action. Since the adoption of the decision, he has indicated that he wishes to work with member States on practical solutions to preserve UNESCO's financial resources.

The Israeli Government reacted to the UNESCO outcome by freezing the transfer of value-added tax and customs revenues it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority pursuant to the Paris Protocol. Those funds amount to approximately $100 million per month, and represent two-thirds of the Palestinian Authority's annual revenues. Withholding that level of funding would cripple any Government, let alone an authority under occupation. If the funds are not immediately unblocked, this action will threaten the State-building gains made by the Palestinian Authority, including the increased good governance benefiting the Palestinian people and the development of the security forces that uphold law and order in the West Bank. The United States is also partially withholding the assistance funds that it had been providing to the Authority.

We must de-escalate this situation. In addition to acting on its settlement obligations, Israel should heed the calls of the Secretary-General and other international leaders to unfreeze transfers to the Palestinian Authority immediately, in accordance with existing agreements. Donors should also unblock their funding to the Palestinian Authority. For its part, the Palestinian Authority should find ways to contribute to the de-escalation of the situation and improving the prevailing divisive climate, including in the international arena. De-escalation will be necessary to create an environment conducive for direct talks. In this regard, as Israel prepares for a further prisoner release pursuant to the swap of two months ago, I hope that it will be mindful of the continuing appeal of the Palestinian Authority for prisoners — some of whom have been incarcerated since before the signing of the Oslo Accords — to be released.

We underscore the importance of the security efforts of the Palestinian Authority and of continued coordination. Palestinian security forces seized and defused unexploded devices on two different occasions in the reporting period. An eighth battalion of internationally trained Palestinian security forces has been deployed on the ground, bringing their number to over 4,000. In a positive gesture, 51 alleged militants being held in protective custody by the Palestinian police in the West Bank were granted amnesty by Israel on 4 November.

Weekly demonstrations continued against the barrier in the occupied West Bank, which deviates from the Green Line in contravention of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. The route of the barrier was reportedly recently moved in the northern Jordan Valley, resulting in a de facto annexation of Palestinian land. During a speech marking the seventh anniversary of President Arafat's death, President Abbas firmly rejected violence, but called for the widest possible Palestinian "non-violent resistance". On 15 November, Palestinian activists boarded an Israeli bus near Ramallah, which headed to Jerusalem to protest travel restrictions, and seven were detained by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

However, violent incidents continue. Citing security concerns, the Israel Defence Forces conducted 218 operations, during which 44 Palestinians were injured, including three children, and 113 arrested, including a prominent West Bank Hamas leader, who was placed in administrative detention without charge for six months on 31 October.

Meanwhile, 21 settler attacks on Palestinians resulted in six injuries and the destruction of another 174 olive trees during the harvest season. On 15 November, the IDF arrested six Israeli settlers near Ramallah for throwing stones at Palestinian vehicles. Palestinian stone-throwing against Israeli vehicles in the West Bank resulted in three injuries, and several arrests of Palestinians. A Jewish holy site in Nablus was desecrated on 31 October.

I wish to note that the weekly average of attacks by settlers has increased by 40 per cent in 2011 compared to 2010, and by 165 per cent compared to 2009. Israel recently made some arrests in connection with previous "price-tag" incidents. On 1 and 7 November, the IDF demolished structures in three West Bank settlement outposts, resulting in clashes with settlers and several arrests. However, on 10 November the Israeli Government delayed the demolition of two unauthorized West Bank settler outposts built on private Palestinian property. Israel must remove outposts consistent with its Road Map commitments, and provide adequate law enforcement for acts of settler violence in line with its obligations

towards the Palestinian civilian population under occupation.

Preserving calm in Gaza and southern Israel continues to be crucial for improvements there and for the overall political atmosphere. The United Nations remains committed to promoting the implementation of resolution 1860 (2009). The fragility of the relative calm was once again demonstrated on 26 October when a Grad rocket launched by militants in Gaza exploded near the Israeli city of Ashdod. Between 29 and 31 October, a dangerous escalation ensued. Tens of Grad and homemade rockets, as well as mortars, landed in Israel. Israel conducted air strikes in Gaza, targeting mainly Islamic Jihad militants. Throughout the episode, both Israel and the de facto Hamas authorities in Gaza signaled their desire to de-escalate. Diplomatic efforts led by Egypt helped to restore relative calm on 1 November. However, Islamic Jihad released footage purporting to show its possession of increasingly sophisticated mobile rocket launchers smuggled into the coastal strip, highlighting the need for more effective steps to prevent the illicit trafficking of arms and ammunition.

During the reporting period a total of 56 rockets — including 24 Grad rockets — and 16 mortar shells were fired into Israel, killing one Israeli civilian and injuring four others. We condemn these indiscriminate attacks, which must stop. The IDF fired nine tank shells and conducted 25 airstrikes and four incursions into Gaza, killing 14 Palestinian militants and injuring 12 others, while two Palestinian civilian were killed and five were injured. A 14 November Israeli airstrike injured a French consular official in Gaza, as well as his daughter and pregnant wife, who miscarried. Israel must exercise maximum restraint and minimize the risk to civilians. We reiterate the Secretary-General's call for all to fully respect international humanitarian law.

In a welcome development, on 8 November the Government of Israel granted four new sets of approvals for construction projects, valued at approximately $5.5 million, to be carried out by the United Nations Development Programme, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Sweden and the United States Agency for International Development. I also welcome the start of the delivery of aggregate, bar and cement for use by the private sector in Gaza, in a pilot arrangement that represents a significant step towards rebuilding the Gaza economy. We are urgently awaiting further approvals of vital housing projects under the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

With due consideration for Israel's legitimate security concerns, I continue to call for further measures towards the lifting of the land closure on Gaza, such as imports of construction materials at scale, exports, the extension of the Gaza fishing zone, and the freedom of movement of people. Opening Gaza is vital to the well-being of Gazans and for closing gaps in supply increasingly filled by other actors, including illicit tunnel trade largely controlled by the de facto authorities. During the reporting period the Israeli navy stopped two boats attempting to reach the Gaza Strip by sea.

Following Fatah-Hamas contacts, a further high-level meeting is being prepared to discuss the implementation of the reconciliation accord agreed in Cairo in May. The reconciliation accord envisages, inter alia, elections in May 2012, following the formation of a technocratic transitional Government. Prime Minister Fayyad, who has consistently supported reconciliation efforts, has publicly reaffirmed his long-standing position that he will not be an obstacle to an agreement on a new Government. The issues among the Palestinians remain challenging, while the substance of any reconciliation arrangement will be carefully assessed by donors. As the United Nations, we continue to support reconciliation efforts within the framework of the commitments of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the positions of the Quartet and the Arab Peace Initiative.

The situation in Syria is a source of deep and growing concern for the United Nations. Violent repression by the Syrian security forces has escalated. There are also worrying signs of an armed confrontation taking place in several areas of the country. The League of Arab States has intensified its efforts to stop the bloodshed and seek a political solution to the crisis, announcing on 2 November a work plan to which the Syrian Government agreed in principle. In the absence of full implementation by the Syrian authorities, the Ministerial Council of the League suspended Syria from participating in its meetings and activities, and decided to consider imposing economic sanctions. The League is currently seeking to dispatch an Arab observer mission to monitor the implementation of the plan and protect civilians in Syria.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has repeatedly called for an immediate end to the bloodshed. He has remained closely engaged with Arab partners and the Secretary-General of the Arab League in this regard. We call for the Arab work plan to be implemented fully and expeditiously. All violence should stop for a Syrian-led process of comprehensive political change to take place that will address the democratic aspirations of the Syrian people regardless of their political, religious or ethnic background.

In this challenging context, there was no progress towards peace between Syria and Israel, which continues to maintain settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan. No incident has been reported in the area of separation since the events of June.

I now turn to the situation in Lebanon, where developments in neighbouring Syria have continued to stoke political tension. Lebanon's vote on 12 November against the League of Arab States' proposal to suspend Syrian membership has become a divisive issue between the coalition in power and the opposition. The discussion in the parliamentary human rights committee of the disappearances of four Syrian opposition figures in Lebanon earlier this year also sparked a heated debate between the 14 and 8 March movements.

The situation along Lebanon's border with Syria also remains a concern. The Syrian army planted landmines on the Syrian side of the border, in areas most commonly used as illegal crossing points into Lebanon. At least one person was admitted to Lebanese health facilities as a result of injuries from the explosion of a landmine. The United Nations continues to coordinate closely with the Government of Lebanon on the provision of assistance to displaced Syrian nationals, as well as on matters of protection and the determination of their status. As of mid-November, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Government had registered 3,581 displaced persons.

Two explosions took place in the southern city of Tyre on 16 November, targeting a hotel and a liquor store. They caused only material damage, including to two United Nations vehicles that were parked near the hotel. The Lebanese authorities have launched an investigation into the explosions. Thus far, neither the motive nor identity of the perpetrators is clear. There are no indications that the United Nations was targeted.

The situation in the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon has otherwise remained generally quiet and stable. However, Israeli flights over Lebanese air space continue on an almost daily basis. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs will brief the Council in greater detail on 29 November, during consultations on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006).

In conclusion, the stakes remain high. As I warned in my briefing to the Council in July (see S/PV.6590), without a credible political path forward, accompanied by more far-reaching steps on the ground, the viability of the Palestinian Authority and its State-building agenda — and, I fear, of the two-State solution itself — cannot be taken for granted. Gaps of trust, perception and substance remain between the parties. It will not be easy to overcome them. However, I appeal to them to de-escalate, refrain from provocations and adhere to their obligations, enter direct negotiations and come forward with concrete and negotiable proposals. The United Nations stands ready to play its full role in supporting such efforts in good faith, based on the international legal basis affirmed by the Quartet, including the resolutions of the Council and existing agreements between the parties.

The President: I thank Mr. Serry for his briefing.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6663

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6663rd meeting

Tuesday, 22 November 2011, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Portas	(Portugal)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Vukašinović
	Brazil	Mrs. Crivano Machado
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mrs. Ntyam-Ehya
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	India	Mr. Kumar
	Lebanon	Mr. Assaf
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Karev
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

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11-60372 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Norway to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2011/725, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France, Germany, India, Norway, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Colombia, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2020 (2011).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.